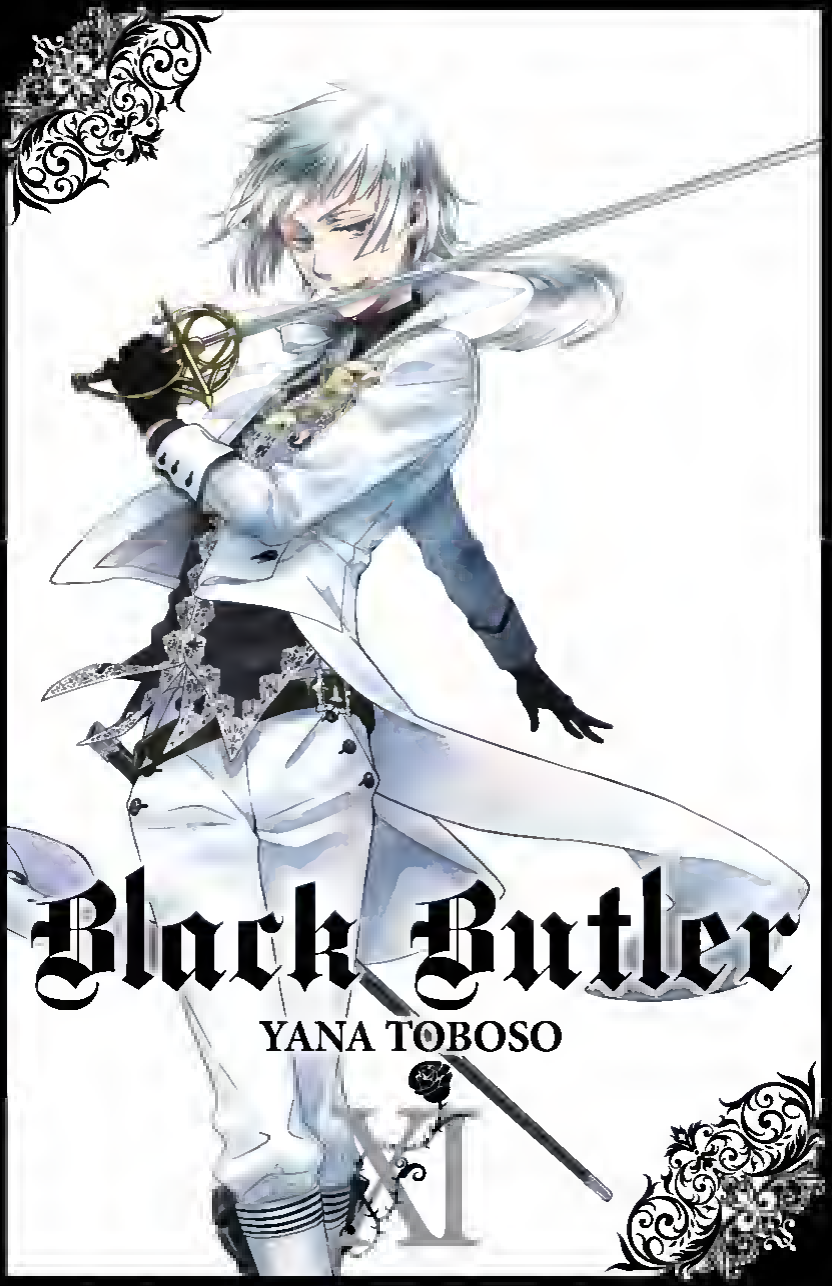
Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XI

Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO

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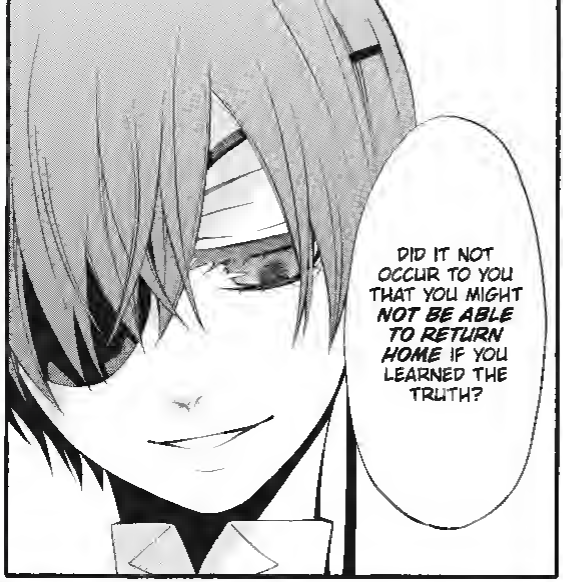
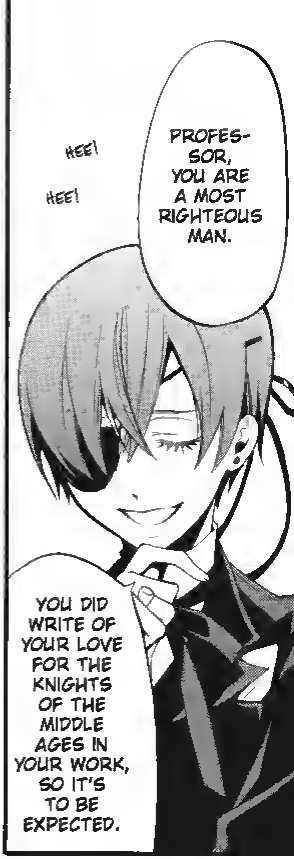
CHAPTER 48

In the morning : The Butler, Solving

I...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
I COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT SOMETHING SO UNREAL COULD BE TRUE...
OH?
DID YOU NOT RETURN TO THE MANOR BECAUSE YOU WERE ASSURED OF THE FACT?

ALL ATREMBLE, AT THAT.
GATA (SHAKE)
SO WHY RETURN?
IF YOU HAD JUST CONTINUED ON YOUR WAY HOME, YOU WOULD HAVE RETURNED TO YOUR PEACEFUL "REALITY."
...IT WOULD BECOME MY DUTY TO GO AFTER THE YARD'S CARRIAGE AT ONCE!
I-IF THE UNEASE I FELT TURNED OUT TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN SIMPLE DISQUIET ON MY PART...
GU (GRIP)
HA HA!

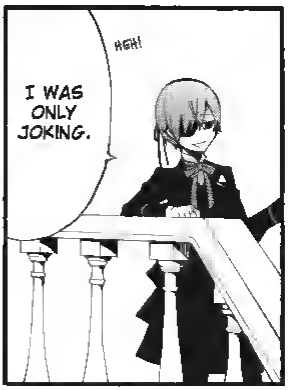

DID IT NOT OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME IF YOU LEARNED THE TRUTH?


PROFES-SOR, YOU ARE A MOST RIGHTEOUS MAN.
HEE!
HEE!
YOU DID WRITE OF YOUR LOVE FOR THE KNIGHTS OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN YOUR WORK, SO IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.

EH!?
DOKI (BADUM)

—JUST AS YOU SURMISED ...
KO (CLICK)

DOKIN
DOKIN
DOKIN (BADUM)
PHEW


I WAS ONLY JOKING.
HEH!

!!
AT LEAST... NOT IN THIS CASE.
...WOODLEY IS NOT THE CULPRIT.
.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SEBAS-TIAN.
YES, SIR.
WE SHOULDN'T STAND HERE TALKING. LET'S SEE TO PREPARING ELEVENSES OR SOME SUCH.
HOWEVER HE BELONGS IN THAT CARRIAGE

YOU DESIRE TO KNOW THE TRUTH, DO YOU NOT?
.....
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE WAY.
HEH!
THERE IS NO NEED TO BE SO TERRIFIED. WE SHALL NOT EAT YOU.

TODAY, I HAVE PREPARED FORTNUM & MASON'S DARJEELING SECOND FLUSH...
...AND PETITS FOURS AS ACCOMPANIMENT
....
.....
KIRA (SHINE)
きら
キラ
ピ！
JIII (STARE)
HEH
NOTHING HERE IS POISONED, SO PLEASE DO HELP YOURSELF.
—WELL?
HOW DID YOU COME TO DEDUCE THIS ONE WAS ALIVE, PROFESSOR?

I JUST FELT VAGUELY ILL AT EASE ALL THE WHILE, AND...
—IN TRUTH ...
...I WAS NOT CONVINCED HE WAS.
...I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT TOO WELL, BUT HE— HOW DO I SAY THIS...?
HE WAS TOO PERFECT.
IT WAS ALL SO IMMACULATE THAT I, ON THE CONTRARY, BEGAN TO FIND IT STRANGE.
BOTH THE BUTLER, SEBASTIAN, AND VICAR JEREMY MADE ME INCREDIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR SUSPICION. ...THEY WERE PERFECTION.

PLEASE.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREPARE SO COMPLETELY IN ADVANCE OF ONE'S DEATH... NO, ONE'S "MURDER."
THE FOOD, THE OWL, WHAT YOU SAID TO ME— IT WAS ALL TOO PERFECT.
THAT WAS NOT THE WORK OF SOME MERE PREMONITION.
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
AND THOUGH VICAR JEREMY, WHO APPEARED AFTER YOUR DEATH, WAS SUSPICIOUS BY ALL ACCOUNTS HIS ALIBI WAS FLAWLESS, AND THERE WAS NO REASON TO DOUBT HIM.
AND THEN THERE WERE HIS PARTING WORDS...
<THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF THE YOUNG MASTER.>

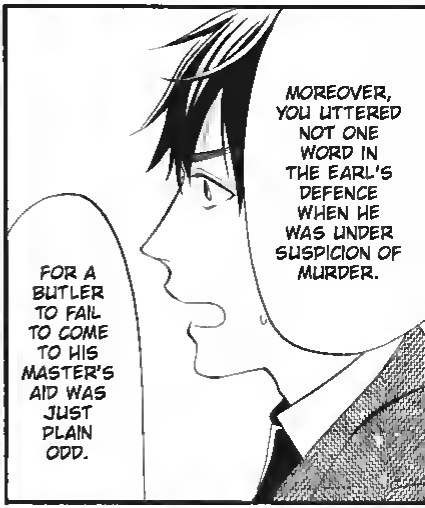
THE MOMENT I HEARD THOSE WORDS, I REALIZED THE TRUTH BEHIND THE UNEASE I HAD BEEN FEELING...
...AND THAT ALL OUR DEDUCTIONS WOULD BE UTTERLY OVERTURNED BY ONE "UNREALISTIC POSSIBILITY."
AN UNREALISTIC POSSIBILITY?
THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BUTLER, SEBASTIAN...
...WAS NOT DEAD.

FOR YOU TO PUT ALL YOUR FAITH INTO THAT ONE REMARK AND RETURN HERE...
...I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM ONE FOR WHOM THE YOUNG MASTER HAS SUCH HIGH HOPES.
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU JABBERING ON ABOUT?
ONCE I CAME TO THAT CONCLU-SION, I COULD NO LONGER CONTAIN MYSELF...
WELL? WHAT DID I DO TO PIQUE YOU SO?
THE FIRST INSTANCE WAS WHEN LORD SIEMENS WAS MURDERED.

YOU, WHO HAD RESPONDED SO SWIFTLY TO THE TROUBLE THAT OCCURRED AT THE DINNER PARTY, YOU UNDER-STAND?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A REASON.

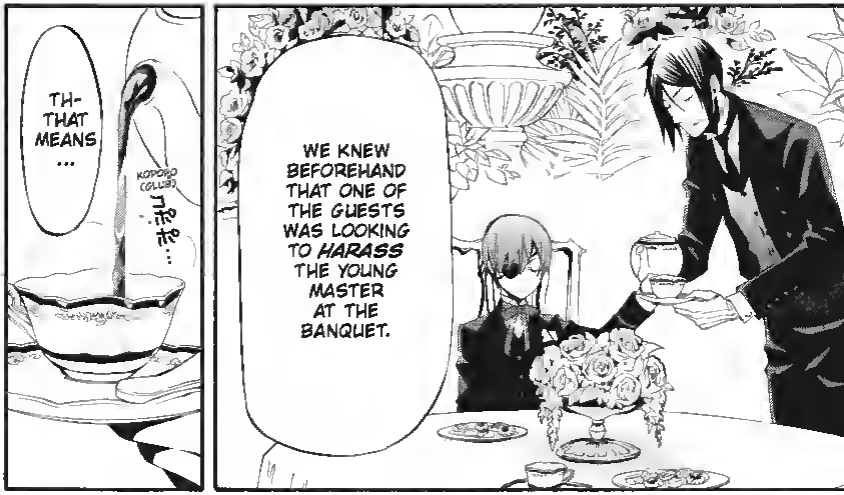
AT THAT TIME, YOU DID NOTHING. YOU SIMPLY OBSERVED US AND THE SITUATION AS IT UNFOLDED.

WERE YOU NOT AWARE?
THAT THE NEXT MURDER WOULD OCCUR AND DISPEL ALL SUSPICION FROM THE EARL?


MOREOVER, YOU UTTERED NOT ONE WORD IN THE EARL'S DEFENCE WHEN HE WAS UNDER SUSPICION OF MURDER.
FOR A BUTLER TO FAIL TO COME TO HIS MASTER'S AID WAS JUST PLAIN ODD.

SO IT WAS JUST AS I —!
HOW-EVER...
YES.
I WAS INDEED AWARE.
...THAT WAS NOT MY REASON FOR FAILING TO DEFEND THE YOUNG MASTER.
HER
EH?
NOT AT ALL?
I WAS JUST SHOCKED THAT WHILE ANTICIPATING GETTING CAUGHT IN SOME KIND OF TRAP, YOU READILY SUCCUMBED TO SLEEP WITH THOSE CARES ON YOUR MIND.
HMPH.
I'LL BET YOU THOUGHT IT SERVED ME RIGHT OR THE LIKE, HM?

ANTICI-
PATING,
YOU
SAID...
N-NOW
PLEASE,
JUST A
MINUTE!!


TH-
THAT
MEANS
...
KOPORO (CLUB)
コポポ…
WE KNEW
BEFOREHAND
THAT ONE OF
THE GUESTS
WAS LOOKING
TO *HARASS*
THE YOUNG
MASTER
AT THE
BANQUET.

YES.
ALSO THAT
LORD SIEMENS
WOULD LIKELY
FALL VICTIM
TO THAT
PLOT...
...YOU
TWO HAD
ALREADY
PREDICTED
THAT THIS
INCIDENT
WOULD
TAKE
PLACE!?

...AND THAT I WOULD BE MURDERED AS WELL, YOU SEE?
EEH!?
GATA (CLACK)

PRO-
FES-
SOR.
...DO—
HOLD
YOUR
TONGUE.
DO
TAKE
CARE
OF THE
YOUNG
MASTER.

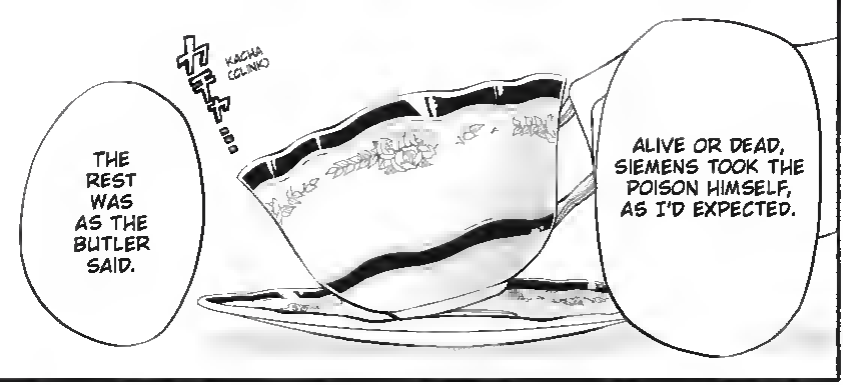
THIS... IS THE KILLER
GYA
CSC
キッ
HE'S DEAD ...!
Y'KNOW, LOCK HIM UP!

TWO DAYS AGO

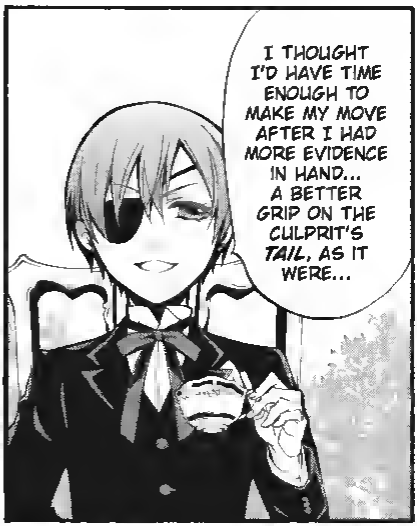
SFX: BATA (STOMP) BATA

KYAAAAH!!
UWAAAAH!!
AH, MISTER PHELPS!!
KYO?
(GLANCE)
キョロ
EXCUSE ME!
...HE'S DEAD!!
I AM CERTAIN I HEARD SOMETHING BREAK, BUT I SPY NOTHING BROKEN.
SUN (SNIFF)
I DO NOT SMELL BLOOD EITHER. —WHICH MEANS...

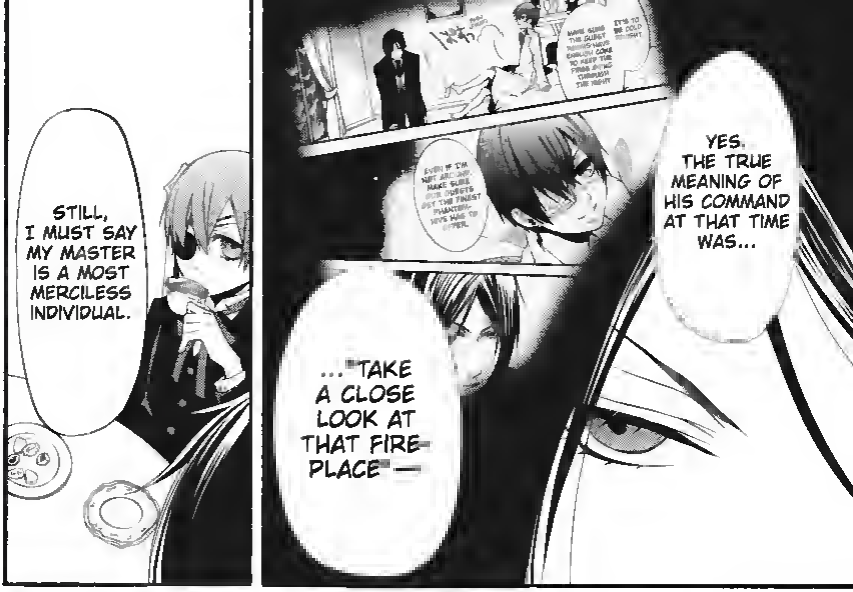
...SOMETHING LIKE A BOTTLE OF POISON MUST BE IN THERE—
PLEASE WAIT!
WHY DID YOU NOT MENTION THAT RIGHT AWAY!?
IF YOU HAD, THE EARL WOULD HAVE BEEN SPARED ALL THAT SUSPICION!
THE YOUNG MASTER HIMSELF APPEARED TO BE SIMPLY TAKING IN THE SCENE. SO I FOLLOWED HIS LEAD.
A MURDER OCCURRING *UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES*— MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT IT WAS A SHAM.

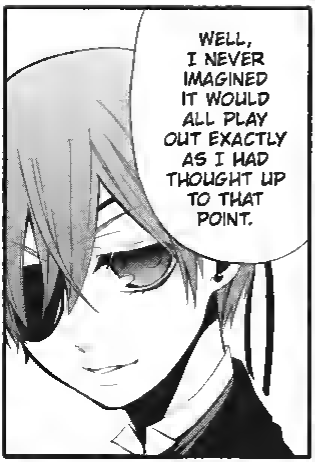

KACHA
CLINK
THE REST WAS AS THE BUTLER SAID.
ALIVE OR DEAD, SIEMENS TOOK THE POISON HIMSELF, AS I'D EXPECTED.

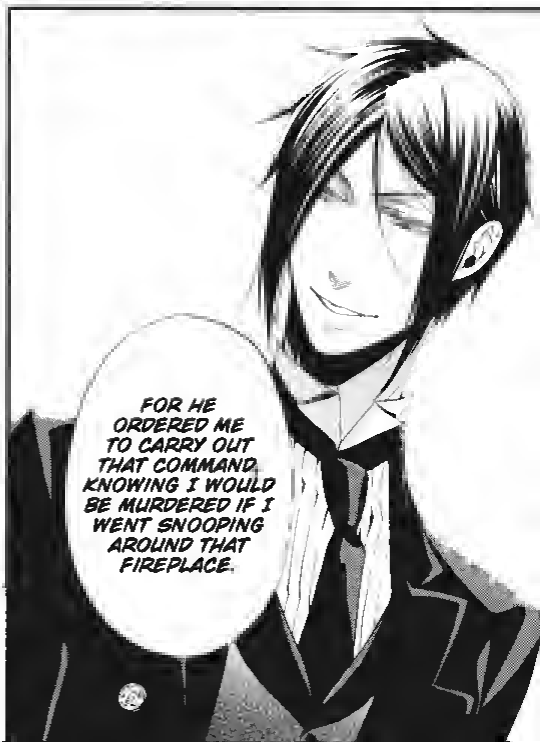
I SEE...
THAT'S WHY YOU HAD THE BUTLER GO AND ADD COKE TO THE FIREPLACES.

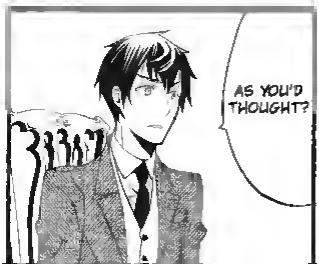

I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO MAKE MY MOVE AFTER I HAD MORE EVIDENCE IN HAND... A BETTER GRIP ON THE CULPRIT'S *TAIL*, AS IT WERE...

YET HE WAS MURDERED WHILE TENDING THE FIRE IN THAT PARTICULAR ROOM.
THERE WAS NO NEED TO STOKE THE FIRE IN A ROOM WITH NO OCCUPANT.
THAT MADE ME WONDER AS WELL.


STILL, I MUST SAY MY MASTER IS A MOST MERCILESS INDIVIDUAL.
...TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THAT FIRE-PLACE—
YES. THE TRUE MEANING OF HIS COMMAND AT THAT TIME WAS...

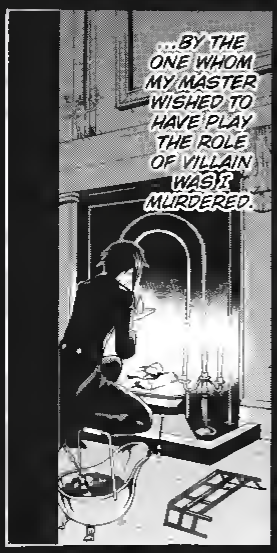

WELL, I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD ALL PLAY OUT EXACTLY AS I HAD THOUGHT UP TO THAT POINT.


FOR HE ORDERED ME TO CARRY OUT THAT COMMAND, KNOWING I WOULD BE MURDERED IF I WENT SNOOPING AROUND THAT FIREPLACE.


AS YOU'D THOUGHT?

YES... I WAS KILLED THAT NIGHT.
ZAAAA (SHHHH)
KOTSU
KOTSU (SUCK)
TO "MAKE SURE THERE IS ENOUGH COKE TO KEEP THE FIRES GOING THROUGH THE NIGHT"... WAS IT?

IT WAS NEITHER GOD NOR FATE.
FOLLOWING THE SCENARIO UPON WHICH MY MASTER HAD DECIDED...
...WITH THE TIMING MY MASTER HAD FIXED...


...BY THE ONE WHOM MY MASTER WISHED TO HAVE PLAY THE ROLE OF VILLAIN WAS I, MURDERED.

YURA (WOBBLE)
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
AT THE HANDS OF THE ONE WHO HAD COME ONLY TO TORMENT MY MASTER—

THIS IS—
BY— EARL GREY.

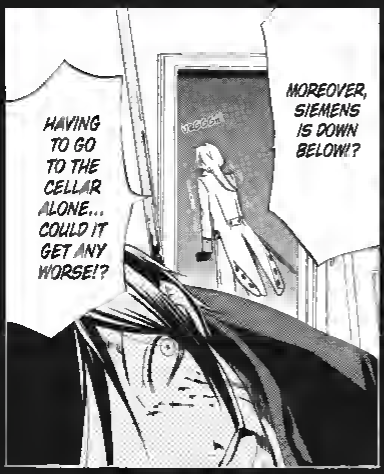
Black Butler

CHAPTER 49

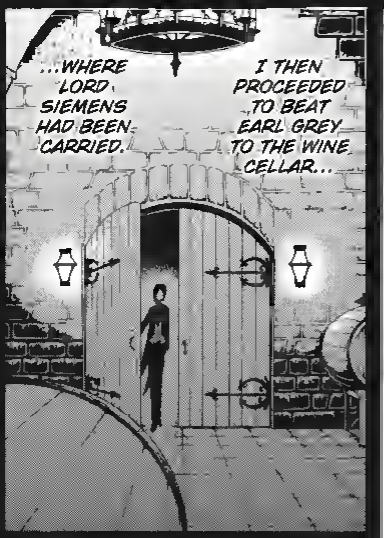
At noon: The Butler, Eccentric

I WAS KILLED THAT NIGHT.
THIS IS—
HYU (WHIP)
GA (WHACK)
GAH!
BY THE QUEEN'S BUTLER—
DO (SHNK)
EARL CHARLES GREY—
!

HOW DULL!
DOSA (THUD)
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET FOUND OUT SO QUICKLY.
I WAS SO HOPING TO BULLY THAT BLOODY BRAT SOME MORE.
AND ALL BECAUSE A LOUSY SERVANT GOT IN MY WAY...


HAVING TO GO TO THE CELLAR ALONE... COULD IT GET ANY WORSE!?
MOREOVER, SIEMENS IS DOWN BELOW!?

BA (WHAP)
...WHY, MY PLAN'S TOTALLY RUINED!!


...WHERE LORD SIEMENS HAD BEEN CARRIED.
I THEN PROCEEDED TO BEAT EARL GREY TO THE WINE CELLAR...

MUKU (RISE)
HE ATTACKED ME IN RAPID SUCCESSION, QUICK AS A FLASH.
ONE COULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM THE BUTLER TO THE QUEEN.
....

DEAR ME.

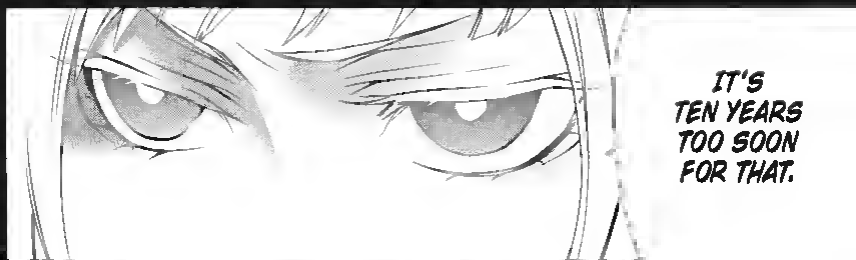
GUUOO (GNOW)
HE TRULY IS A HOPELESS MAN.
HE EVEN GOT INTO THE WINE THAT WAS SET ASIDE TO AGE...
KO (CLICK)
KO
KO
NNOH?
OHH! EARL GREY!
KO
KO
OUR LITTLE PRANK SEEMS TO HAVE GONE WELL!
WAS EVERY-ONE QUITE SHOCKED?
UPON MY WAKING, I DISCOVERED SOME WINE JUST HERE AND...
KO
KO

GOPU (GUSH)
EH...?

QUIET, YOU! DON'T TALK SO LOUD.

...WAS GETTING A BIT OF THE HAIR OF THE DOG IN ME, YOU SEE—
DO (SHINK)

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU (THRUST)
DIM-WITTED GERMANY WILL CATCH UP TO GREAT BRITAIN, YOU SAY?
THE VERY SIGHT OF YOU IS FRIGHTFULLY OFFENSIVE.


IT'S TEN YEARS TOO SOON FOR THAT.

KLIRU (FWIP)
SAS (FWIP)
WELL... IT REALLY WILL TAKE ONLY TEN YEARS, THOUGH.
SUTO (TAN)
TAN (SHUT)
N-NO!!
GACHAN (CLONK)
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU EVEN KNEW THE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRIT!?
AND DESPITE THAT, YOU STILL CHOSE TO THROW AWAY YOUR OWN LIFE!?

JUST BECAUSE YOUR MASTER COMMANDED YOU TO DO SO...!?
YES.
I DO NOT LIE.
AFTER ALL, MY MASTER WORKS HIS PEOPLE...NO, HIS BUTLER, SO HARD, HE NIGH ON DESERVES A ROYAL WARRANT FOR IT.
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE SWEETHAS AT?

...ENTRUSTED THE MAID WITH THE OWL THAT I HAD CAUGHT IN THE WOODS THE DAY BEFORE AND KEPT ON RESERVE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY...
...GAVE THE CHEF AND GARDENER THEIR ORDERS FOR THE NEXT DAY...
I THEN TOOK CARE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THREE DAYS' WORTH OF MEALS...
...AND PENNED A REPORT TO YOUNG MASTER ON THE RESULTS OF MY FIREPLACE EXAMINATION—

FU (WAFF)

IS MY APPEARANCE PERHAPS A LITTLE TOO UNSIGHTLY TO BE PRESENTING MYSELF BEFORE A GUEST AND MY MASTER, I WONDER?

HURRY UP AND HAND OVER MY PILLOW.

YOU'RE LATE, SEBASTIAN.

KASA (RUSTLE)

BAFU (FWUH)
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THIS IS YOUNG MASTER'S SECURITY BLANKET AT PRESENT?
NOT HARDLY! I JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE THIS PILLOW!

—PRO-FESSOR.
PLEASE. DO TAKE CARE OF THE YOUNG MASTER.
GET BACK TO YOUR QUARTERS AT ONCE!
I'M GOING TO SLEEP!
I MUST SEE TO IT THAT THIS GETS LAUNDERED AT ONCE.
BETTARI (SMEARED)
ATAN (SHIT)
—RIGHT, THEN.
THEREAFTER, I RETURNED TO WORK AS THE YOUNG MASTER HAD COMMANDED.

NIYARU (SHARIKO)
.....
EVEN I FEEL THE PAIN OF BEING RUN THROUGH WELL ENOUGH, I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW.
ZUBU (PLUNGE)
AND IT WAS IN THIS STATE THAT I HAD FINNY, WHO ARRIVED JUST AS I HAD INSTRUCTED, DISCOVER ME.
DID IT GO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

I HAD ONLY INTENDED IT AS A MINOR RETALIATION, BUT...
...EARL GREY'S PERPLEXED ASPECT... IT RATHER BEGGED A LAUGH, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
AND SO—
YOUNG...! MASTER!
I COMMAND YOU!!
SEBASTIAN!! YOU GET UP RIGHT NOW, YOU HEAR ME!!?
I AM QUITE AWAKE, THANK YOU.
THE YOUNG MASTER'S ACT WAS TRULY MOST COMPEL-LING, BUT...
DID YOU FAIL TO HEAR MY COMMAND !?
...EVEN I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO GO TO SUCH LENGTHS AS TO STRIKE ME WITH HIS BERINGED HAND!
ARE YOU... REALLY DEAD?
SEBAS-TIAN.
FURTHERMORE, HE DID IT AT SUCH A TIME WHEN I COULD NOT AFFORD TO MOVE... I DO ADMIRE THAT CUNNING OF HIS.

...WHO PROMISED YOU WOULD STAY AT MY SIDE UNTIL THE VERY END—
YOU...AND YOU ALONE, WHO—
WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT. THEN PUT THE BOTTLE IN THE FIREPLACE.
...YOU HEAR ME?
—NOW.
SHALL WE GET STARTED?
ZAAA (SHAAA)
GYU (TUG)
—I WAS ABLE TO EXECUTE MY DUTIES AT WILL AND APACE.
GI (CREAK)
AND THUS HAVING OBTAINED AN ALIBI AS A CORPSE AS WELL AS MY FREEDOM—
ZA
Z (ZIP)

!
THERE IT IS!!
GUAH!?
GASHI (SNATCH)
!
HOW-EVER—
PIKU (TWITCH)
DO PLEASE BEHAVE YOURSELF FOR A SPELL.
PUSH (SHIP)
BASA (FLAP)
GUH!
GUH!
BASA (FLAP)

THEN WE FIRST HAVE TO CHECK WHETHER OR NOT THE BUTLER HAS THE KEY.
IF HE DOES HAVE IT, CONSIDER THAT THEORY SQUASHED.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT NOW THAT SEBASTIAN HAS BEEN KILLED, CAN IT NOT BE SAID THAT IF ANYONE DOES HAVE THE KEY, THAT PERSON IS THE CULPRIT?
QUITE.
I MUST HURRY TO THE WINE CELLAR!
NEOOOON!
THIS WILL NEVER DO!
ACCIDENTS ARE PART AND PARCEL OF A BUTLER'S WORK—
TA (TMP)
!?
THAT VOICE JUST NOW WAS —!?
KI (CICKLEEOO)
YOU POOR THING... COME, I WILL TAKE YOU IN...
GASA (RUSTLE)
MEEEOW!
IT TRULY IS YOU!
MEEEOW!
BA (WHIMP)

WAS THAT MOMENT THE VERY EPITOME OF THE SAYING, "EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING"?
FORGIVE ME, I DO BUT JEST.
MEEEEOW!
MEEEEOW!
MEEEEOW!
MEEEEOW!
MEEEEOW!
!?
...SIDE —!
GASA
MEEEEOW!-
IN THIS SETTING, I HALF EXPECT A GHOST OR THE LIKE TO POP OUT AT ANY MOMENT
HEY, CUT THAT OUUUT!!
GENTLEMEN, WE'RE HERE.
GII (CREAK)
GO

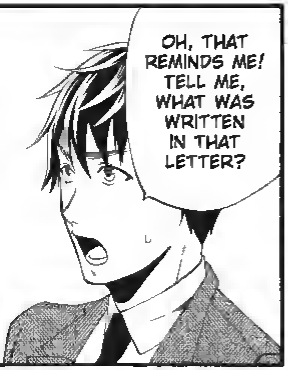
THEN IF I MAY BEG YOUR PARDON, SEBASTIAN...
AND THUS...
...I NARROWLY AVERTED THE MOST DISASTROUS PREDICAMENT I HAVE EVER FACED IN ALL MY TIME AS A BUTLER—
HE'S WET!?
IT... DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON HIS ALBERT CHAIN.
DID HE MAYBE WEAR IT ROUND HIS NECK?
LET'S SEE.

HOWEVER... THE AWFUL PLIGHT OF HAVING MY PERSON BE EXPOSED TO HUMAN EYES IN SUCH A HUMILIATING STATE...
...WAS A FIRST EVEN FOR ME DESPITE MY DEVIL-ISHLY LONG LIFE...
BASA (FLAP)
ばさっ
I AIN'T SEEIN' HIDE OR HAIR OF THE DARN THING.
LET'S MAKE SURE WE EXAMINE HIM FROM HEAD TO TOE.
...IT'S NOT THERE EITHER.
WOULD IT NOT PERHAPS MAKE SENSE FOR IT TO BE IN HIS PRIVATE ROOM?
COME ALONG, WE'LL HAVE A LOOK
LATER, I RETRIEVED THE AMPOULE SHARDS THAT EARL GREY HAD THROWN OUT INTO THE GARDEN...
BE SO IT SO WE COULD PROTECT THIS HANDS AND THE PHANTOMHIVE MASTER.
...IF THE DAY EVER CAME WHEN HE WASN'T AROUND ANYMORE!
ATARI (SHUT)
MUKU (RISE)

AS THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ANOTHER UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT, PERHAPS IT IS BEST TO RETURN IN HASTE?
...AND TOSSED THEM INTO THE FIREPLACE OF MISTER WOODLEY'S ROOM, THEREBY CARRYING OUT THE YOUNG MASTER'S ORDERS IN FULL.
I THEN PROCEEDED TO DISGUISE MYSELF...
AS VICAR JEREMY.
...AND RETURN TO THE MANOR, THEATRE TICKET TO PROVE MY ALIBI AND OWL IN HAND.

I SLIPPED OUT DURING THE PARTY AND PROCURED IT BEFORE RETURNING.
BUT THAT IS IMPOS-SIBLE!!

NO, IT WAS THE REAL THING, PURCHASED IN LONDON.
THEN THAT TICKET WAS A SHAM!?


OH, THAT REMINDS ME! TELL ME, WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THAT LETTER?

THIS AND THE OWL TOO WERE ALL PART OF HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE JEREMY CONVINCING.
I HAVE A RECEIPT AS WELL!
YOU ARE WELCOME TO DOUBT ME, SIR. PLEASE HAVE THE TICKET STUB VERIFIED AT THE BOX OFFICE UPON YOUR RETURN TO LONDON.

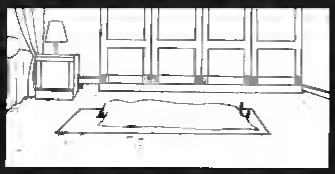
AAH, YES.
THAT...

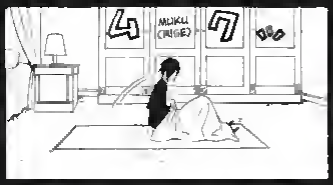
YOUNG MASTER! WHATEVER DID MISTER SEBASTIAN WRITE!?
KASA (RUSTLE)
DO PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE LETTER AROUND ITS LEG
……
OH NO...
GUSHA (CRUMPLE)
IT APPEARS THAT HE SENT THIS LETTER TO JEREMY ANTICIPATING THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD EVENTUALLY BE KILLED.
NIYA (LEER)

THENCE, I TOOK ON TWO ROLES, AND...
PLEASE! JUST A MINUTE!
AS THE INCIDENTS HAD INTERRUPTED YOUR STUDIES, I THOUGHT YOU COULD DO WITH A LITTLE MENTAL EXERCISE, YOUNG MASTER.
...WAS SIMPLY A PRANK OF HIS.
ABOUT THAT...
...EXAMINED YOUR CORPSE ALONGSIDE MISTER JEREMY, YOU REALISE!?
BUT I...
MAY I EXAMINE THE CORPSES FIRST?
I SEE... I FIND IT ALL VERY CURIOUS INDEED

VERY WELL. LET US MAKE FOR THE WINE CELLAR BELOW.
STOP!!
EH!?
PLEASE CARRY EACH BODY TO A SEPARATE ROOM.
EVEN THE VARIOUS SCENTS OF A CASE MAY YIELD CLUES. IF THE CORPSES ARE LAID OUT TOGETHER, THEIR INDIVIDUAL SMELLS WILL MINGLE AND BE CONTAMINATED.
YES, SIR.
YOU LOT, TAKE EACH CORPSE TO A ROOM OF ITS OWN.
MY LORD, WOULD YOU PERMIT ME TO CHANGE MY CLOTHING IN THE INTERIM?
YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU'D SHOW UP LOOKING LIKE THAT!!

I SHALL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS LEISURELY ERELONG!
ZURASA (SHOOONO)
I HAD NO TIME TO INFORM YOU.
I AM IN A BIT OF A HURRY SO DO PLEASE PARDON MY RUDENESS.
BA (WHIP)
BA
I MUST AGREE.
IF YA TRUST PEOPLE SO EASY, YOU'RE GONNA GET BURNED, KID.
PASA (FLAP)
GU (CLENCH)
ZUSASAAA (SKIIIDOD)
...WE WILL BE MOVING YOU NOW, WE WILL.
MISTER SEBASTIAN, SIR.




MUKKU (CRUISE)

NEXT UP'S THAT TWIGGY-LOOKIN' FELLA.
RIGHT.

I JUST CONTINUED TO ARRIVE IN EACH PLACE AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE.
RIGHT THEN! SHALL WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CORPSES IN THE ORDER THEY WERE MURDERED?

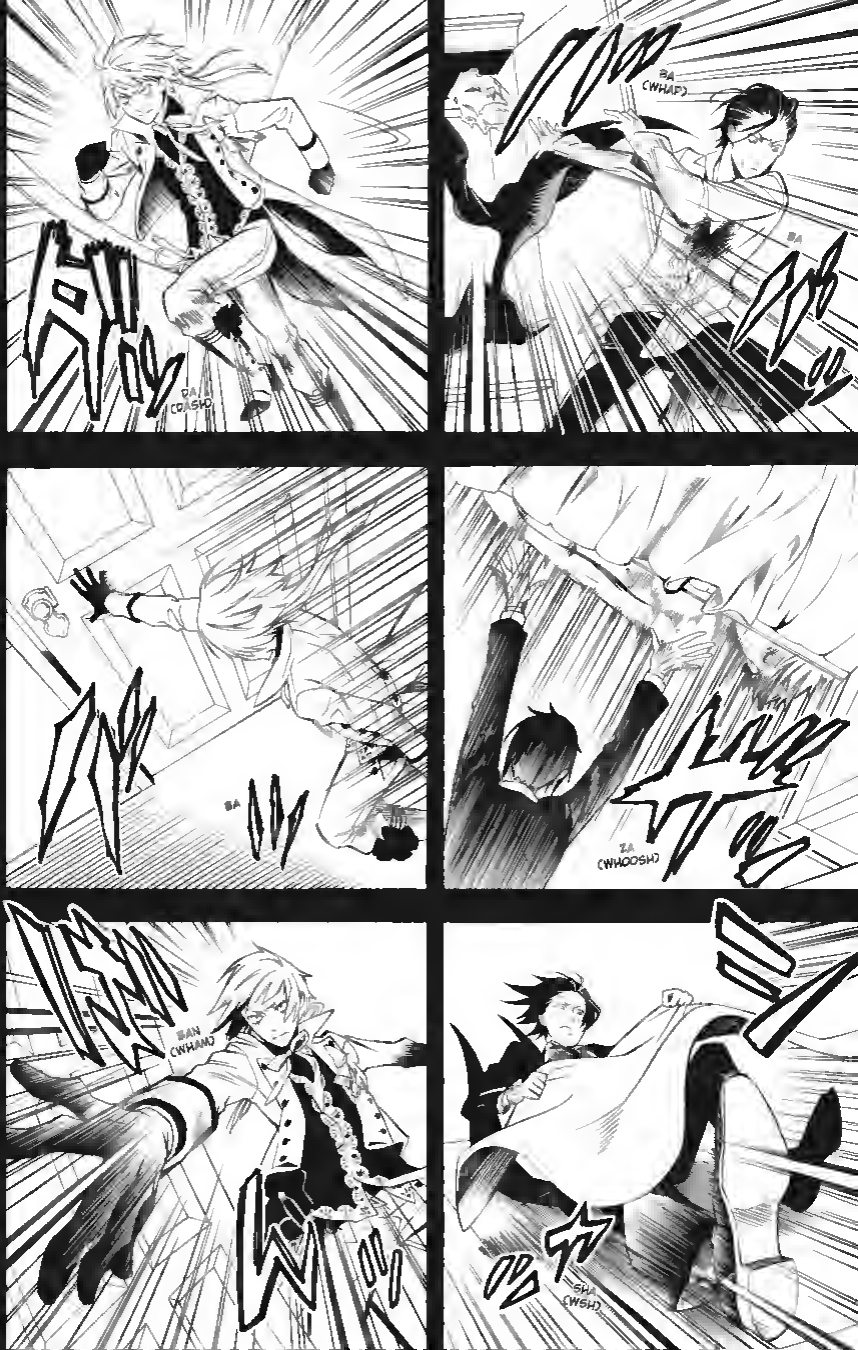
AAH, SO BUSY, SO BUSY.
ZUDADADA DOKAKAKA

THE REAL PROB-LEM WAS EARL GREY.
I'M COMING WITH YOOOU TOOOO!
SO IT IS TO BE LORD SIEMENS FIRST, YES?

...AND THEN MISTER PHELPS.
FIRST, WE EXAMINED LORD SIEMENS...
THE MANNER OF HIS DEATH ALONE DIFFERED FROM THAT OF THE OTHER TWO.
I SEE...
MAY I TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROOM IN WHICH HE MET HIS END?
AAH, LET ME SHOW YOU.
ZURO (FILE)
SOOO (SNEAK)
GACHA (KACHAK)
SASHI (GRAB)

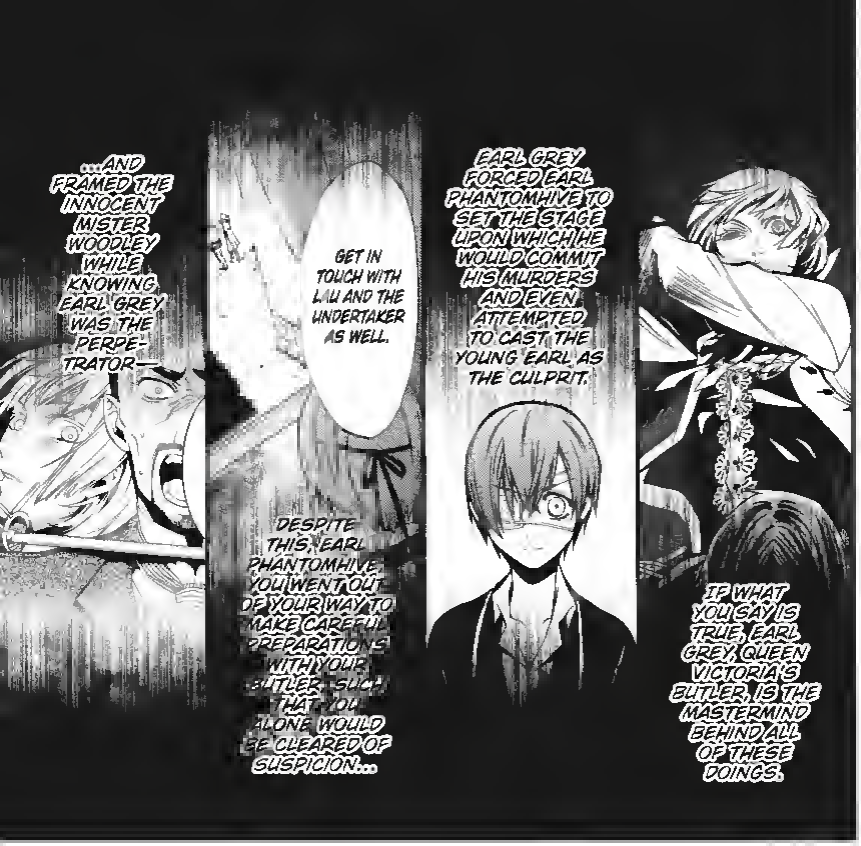
VICAR JEREMY'S POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE QUITE EXTRAORDINARY, SO HE MIGHT NOTICE SOMETHING WE MISSED IN THERE.
HUH?
THAT OLD MAN ISN'T WITH US!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
JEREMY?

YOUNG MASTER'S HIDEOUS ACTING AND YOUR CHARACTER, PROFESSOR, WERE OUR SAVING GRACES IN THAT SITUATION...
SO THAT CORPSE WAS MISTER PHELPS !?
YES.
I NEED TO SEE TO THE EVENING'S PREPARA-TIONS, SO DO GO ON AHEAD.
WELL NOW, SHALL WE RETURN TOO?
I'M HEADING BACK FIRST!


BA (CRASH)
BA (WHAP)
BA
BA
ZA (WHOOSH)
BAN (WHAM)
SHA (WSH)

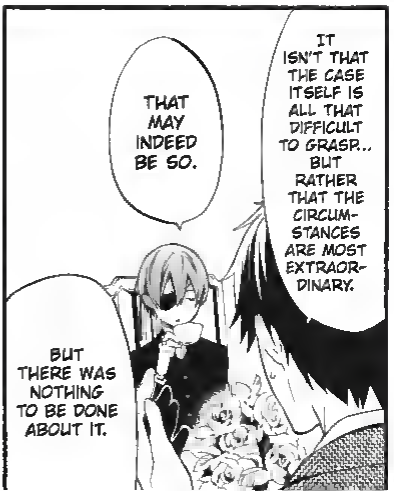
BAGA (FWAP)
IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE, HUH...
GA (STOMP)
.....
NO, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN.

.....
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
AS YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE, I THEREAFTER ASSISTED THE YOUNG MASTER IN THE GUISE OF VICAR JEREMY.
MISTER WOODLEY WAS APPREHENDED, AND...
...THE UNHARMED YOUNG MASTER REDEEMED.
I DON'T GET IT...
EVEN AFTER HEARING YOU OUT, I STILL HAVE NOT COME TO UNDERSTAND THE INCIDENTS... NO, I CAN'T COMPREHEND ANY OF IT.
I MEAN, YOU UNDER-STAND MY CONFUSION, DON'T YOU?

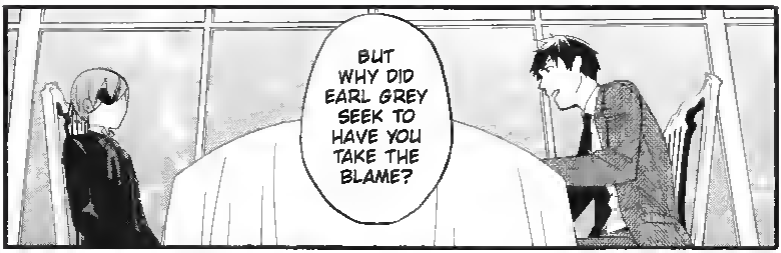

...AND FRAMED THE INNOCENT MISTER WOODLEY WHILE KNOWING EARL GREY WAS THE PERPE-TRATOR—
GET IN TOUCH WITH LAU AND THE UNDERTAKER AS WELL.
DESPITE THIS, EARL PHANTOMHIVE, YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO MAKE CAREFUL PREPARATIONS WITH YOUR BUTLER SUM SO THAT YOU ALONE WOULD BE CLEARED OF SUSPICION...
EARL GREY FORCED EARL PHANTOMHIVE TO SET THE STAGE UPON WHICH HE WOULD COMMIT HIS MURDERS AND EVEN ATTEMPTED TO CAST THE YOUNG EARL AS THE CULPRIT.
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, EARL GREY, QUEEN VICTORIA'S BUTLER, IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL OF THESE DOINGS.

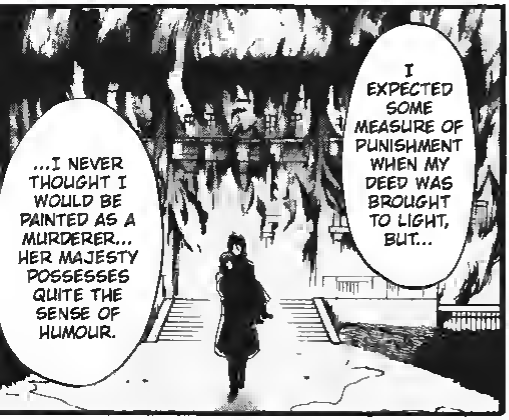
FOR IT WAS ALL...

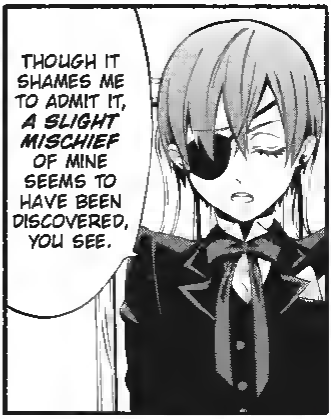
EH!?
...DONE ACCORDING TO HER MAJESTY'S WISHES.


IT ISN'T THAT THE CASE ITSELF IS ALL THAT DIFFICULT TO GRASP... BUT RATHER THAT THE CIRCUM-STANCES ARE MOST EXTRAOR-DINARY.
THAT MAY INDEED BE SO.
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

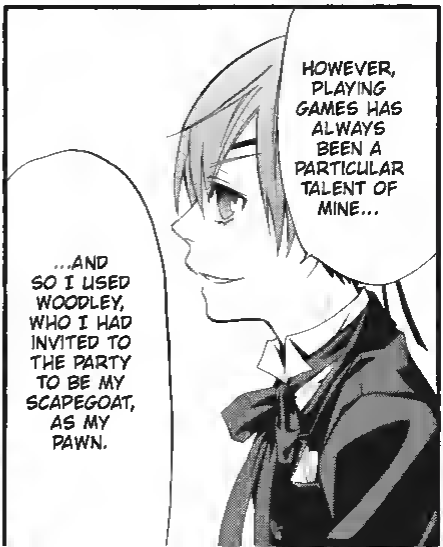
...HER MAJESTY PLOTTED TO DESTROY SIEMENS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE GROWTH OF GERMANY'S MILITARY POWER.
WITH GREAT BRITAIN'S POSITION CURRENTLY UNDER THREAT FROM GERMANY AND AMERICA...
SIEMENS, OUR GUEST FROM GERMANY.
HIS BANK HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENTS IN THE DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT OF SHIPS AND VESSELS...
...AND IT WOULD BE NO STRETCH TO CALL HIM A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE EXPANSION AND ADVANCEMENT OF GERMANY'S HEAVY INDUSTRIES.
THE THEORY KNOWN AS THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT.
...BUT IT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO GIVE RISE TO A DEVASTATING TEMPEST THAT WE MIGHT'VE NEVER SEEN COMING.
HIS INFLUENCE MIGHT ONLY HAVE BEEN EQUIVALENT TO THE FLAPPING OF A BUTTERFLY'S WINGS...
BY SIMPLY KILLING ONE MAN!?
IT IS TRUE THAT SIEMENS WAS NO MORE THAN A BANKER.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE CAN SOMEHOW SEE ALL THE BUTTERFLIES WHOSE WING FLAPS WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, WHO IN JUST FIFTY YEARS BUILT THE BRITISH EMPIRE THAT DOMINATES THE GLOBE.


BUT WHY DID EARL GREY SEEK TO HAVE YOU TAKE THE BLAME?


I EXPECTED SOME MEASURE OF PUNISHMENT WHEN MY DEED WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT, BUT...
...I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE PAINTED AS A MURDERER... HER MAJESTY POSSESSES QUITE THE SENSE OF HUMOUR.


THOUGH IT SHAMES ME TO ADMIT IT, A SLIGHT MISCHIEF OF MINE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED, YOU SEE.

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT TO AN INNOCENT LIKE MISTER WOOD—
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
HE BELONGS IN THAT CARRIAGE.


HOWEVER, PLAYING GAMES HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PARTICULAR TALENT OF MINE...
...AND SO I USED WOODLEY, WHO I HAD INVITED TO THE PARTY TO BE MY SCAPEGOAT, AS MY PAWN.

AND ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROZE COMPANY, WHICH MINES DIAMONDS, WAS MURDERED.
PLEASE SEE THIS ARTICLE HERE
HIS PUBLIC FACE IS THAT OF A MAN WHO RUNS A DIAMOND POLISHING BUSINESS.
BUT BEHIND THE SCENES, HE IS AN ARMS DEALER WHO SELLS ILLEGAL WEAPONS OBTAINED WITH HIS DIAMONDS TO WAR-TORN REGIONS ON A GRAND SCALE.
SOMEONE OF THE UNDERWORLD USING HIS RELATED POWERS TO ENDANGER SOMEONE IN OUTER SOCIETY IS A GRAVE VIOLATION OF THE RULES.
EMPLOYING MY OWN CHANNELS, I'D IDENTIFIED WOODLEY AS THE PERPETRATOR OF THAT CRIME.
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU!?
WHAT MISTER WOODLEY SAID BACK THEN—
THE CLOUDS HANGING OVER HER MAJESTY HAVE BEEN CLEARED AWAY, AND THE YOUNG MASTER IS SAFE AND SOUND. TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, HM?
AS I'D PLANNED TO ELIMINATE HIM ANYWAY, HE WAS JUST THE MAN TO BE MY SCAPE-GOAT.

I AM HE WHO SNIFFS OUT THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE COMMAND-MENTS OF THE BRITISH UNDERWORLD AND DISPOSES OF THEM.
THE WATCHDOG OF THE QUEEN.
THIS LATEST AFFAIR WAS A TRIVIAL GAME ORGANIZED BY HER MAJESTY TO RECONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT I STILL POSSESS THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THAT ROLE.
"THERE IS NOTHING MORE DECEPTIVE THAN AN OBVIOUS FACT," PROFESSOR.
THAT WAS ALWAYS RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
YES.
Y-YOU MUST BE LYING ...
TO BEGIN WITH, IF ALL I'VE HEARD IS TRUE, HE IS...THAT BUTLER IS...
KATA
KATA (SHAKE)

THE FACT ...
...THAT I AM NOT HUMAN, YOU SEE.
"NOW THAT I KNOW, I MUST DO MY BEST TO PUT IT FROM MY MIND."
WHAT DO YOU SAY, PROFES-SOR?
GATA (CLATTER)
ZAWA (VSSH)
Ah ...!
Aah ...!
GATA (SHAKE)
GATA
DOO

OW!
U... UWAAA-AAAH!!
DON (BANG)
DA (DASH)
I- I'LL NEVER TELL ANY-ONE!
I WON'T SAY A WORD, SO —!
YOU DO UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU IF YOU DIVULGE THIS SECRET...
...DO YOU NOT?
EEP ...!
I URGE YOU TO NEVER, EVER FORGET THEM...
THE WORDS THAT HAVE JUST PASSED YOUR LIPS.

WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WATCHING...
!!
HA (GASP)

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR RESIDENCE.
A—
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
HE IS A WRITER. IF HE EXPERIENCES THE BIZARRE, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AVOID PICKING UP HIS PEN.
THAT IS JUST THE SORT OF CREATURES WRITERS ARE.
WHY DID YOU ACT IN A WAY THAT WOULD REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY TO HIM?
YOU ADORED HIS STORY, DID YOU NOT, YOUNG MASTER?
YOU REFUSED TO DISCARD THAT MAGAZINE AND READ THE PIECE OVER AND OVER...
AND WHY, WHEN YOU LEARNED THERE WAS NO CONTINUATION, YOU WERE TERRIBLY CHAGRINED!

HEH!
IT WAS SIMPLY A MIDDLING DIVERSION.
HMPH.
I LOOK FORWARD TO READING WHAT HE WRITES NEXT.

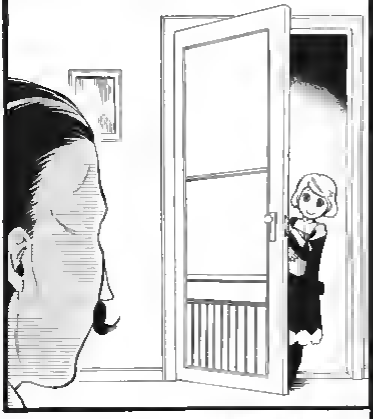
AND HOWEVER MANY TIMES I ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE THAT "AFOREMENTIONED STORY" BY TRYING MY HAND AT WRITING OTHER WORKS, "THAT PROTAGONIST" KEPT HAUNTING ME LIKE A CURSE.

THE SIGN OF THE RED H... THE SPECKL...

THEREAFTER, I CONTINUED MOVING MY PEN ACROSS PAPER AS IF POSSESSED BY SOMETHING, WRITING THE "AFOREMENTIONED STORY" TO WHICH I THOUGHT I'D NEVER RETURN——

ON THOSE OCCASIONS, MY MEMORIES OF THEM RETURNED IN TOW—— GOOD AND EVIL, REASON AND MADNESS, THE WORLD OF THE LIVING AND THE REALM OF THE DEAD... THEY WHO RULED WITH SUCH GRACE OVER THE SPACES IN BETWEEN.

AS IF...
TO REMIND ME OF MY VOW——



THERE CERTAINLY EXISTS "SOME-THING" OUT THERE THAT GOES BEYOND ANYTHING WE CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE.

BUT I SHALL CONCEAL THAT "FACT" IN THE DEPTHS OF MY FIREPLACE FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.

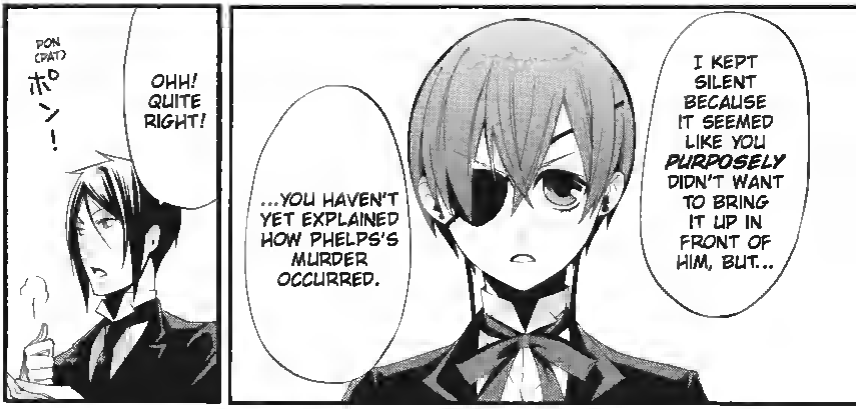
JUST AS I DO THE SECRETS OF THAT STORMY NIGHT.

Black Butler

Chapter 50

In the afternoon : The Butler, Laid to Rest

WELL, NOW THAT THE PROFESSOR HAS GONE HOME...
...I SHALL SEE TO LUNCHEON—
WAIT.


I KEPT SILENT BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE YOU *PURPOSELY* DIDN'T WANT TO BRING IT UP IN FRONT OF HIM, BUT...
...YOU HAVEN'T YET EXPLAINED HOW PHELPS'S MURDER OCCURRED.
OHH! QUITE RIGHT!
PON (PAT) ポン！

ACTUALLY, WE HAD ANOTHER *VISITOR* AT THE MANOR IN ADDITION TO OUR INVITED GUESTS.
!?
WHAT!?

AS I WAS NOT EXPECTING HIM, I SHOWED HIM TO THESE SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS HERE.
WHA—!?
ズルッ
THE KILLER IS IN HERE ...!?
YES.
...LET ME SEE WHAT'S INSIDE.
ARE YOU SURE?
DON'T PUT ON AIRS. OPEN IT!
VERY WELL.
SAWA (SAWOUD)
GU (CREAK)

!!
SA
(LUNGE)

HEH!
DOSA (THUD)
WH—
WHA—!?
THEY SEEM TO BEAR YOU PLENTY OF ILL WILL, YOUNG MASTER.
ZURU (SLIDE)
WHICH IS WHY I ASKED... "ARE YOU SURE?"
——!
!!
Y-YOU'RE—!

SNAKE!

THE THIRTEENTH PERSON REALLY DID EXIST.
MISTER PHELPS'S TRUE MURDERER...
ズズ
ズ
(SLIDE)

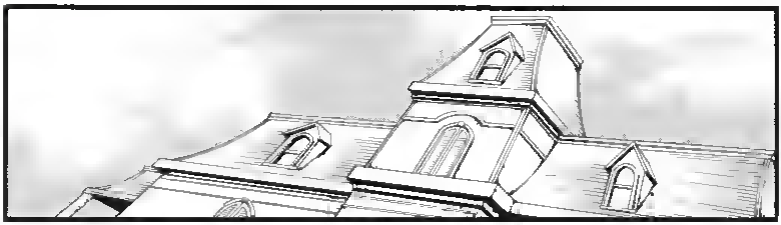
IT SEEMS WE HAVE AN UNINVITED GUEST.
HELP MEEE ...!!
UAA-AAH ...!!
AAH ...!
OH! UGH...

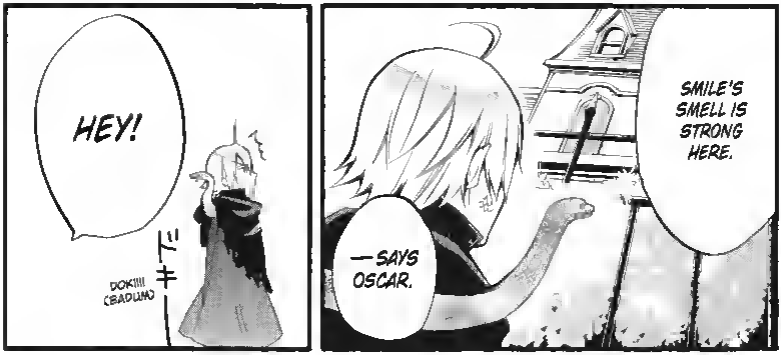
ズ…
(ZU)
ズズ…
(ZUZU)
Hel...
ZAAAA
(SHAAAA)
KU
(CLICK)

GICHI (SQUEEZE)
BA (LUNGE)
SAKI (CRUNCH)
WELL, WELL...
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE...
KO (CLICK)

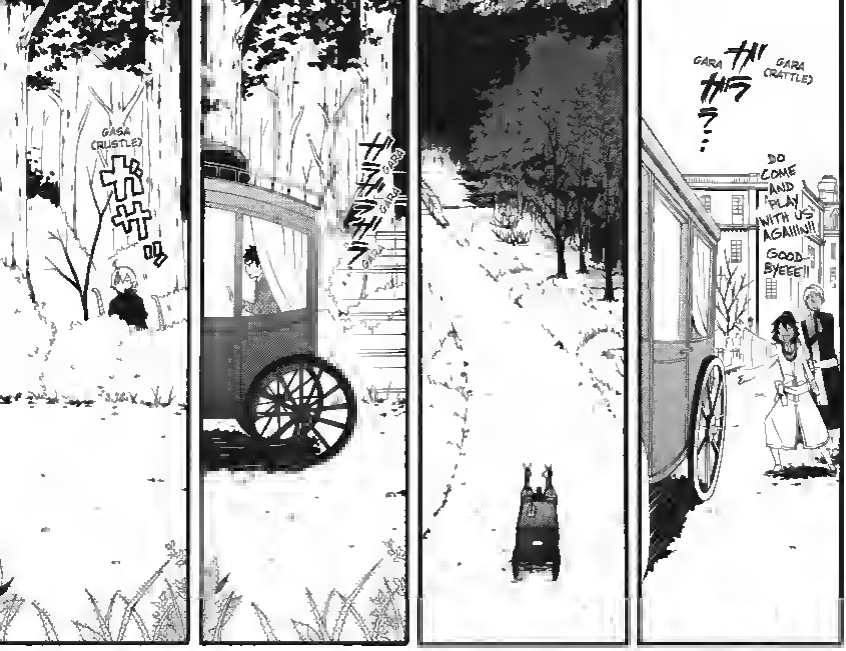
...MISTER SNAKE.
HISSS!
I WAS BORN ON QUEIMADA ISLAND, AND MY POISON CAN KILL ANY HUMAN IN THIRTY SECONDS.
SO WHY AREN'T YOU DEAD YET?
— SAYS WEBSTER.
MEKI (CRACK)
MEKI
I AM THE BUTLER OF THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I CAN WITHSTAND A POISON OF THIS POTENCY.
WHY ARE YOU HERE ...!?

THE DAY AFTER BLACK AND SMILE SNUCK INTO THE TENTS OF JOKER AND THE OTHER FIRST-STRINGERS, THEY ALL WENT MISSING.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN YOUR DOING!
—SAYS WILDE.
SO I FOLLOWED THE SCENT OF SMILE'S COSTUME AND WENT AFTER HIM...
—SAYS OSCAR.



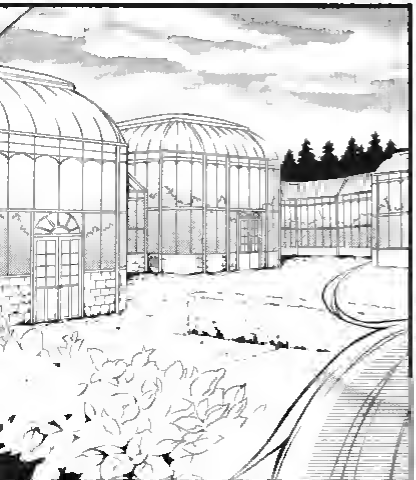

SMILE'S SMELL IS STRONG HERE.
—SAYS OSCAR.
HEY!
DOK!!!! (BADUM)

—SAYS BRONTE.
IS THERE A SMALL LAD AND A MAN ALL IN BLACK HERE?
SMALL... AAH, YOU MEAN LORD CIEL AND MISTER SEBASTIAN, YES?
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE AT THIS TOWN HOUSE?
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, BUT MAY I ASK YOUR NAME —?
WHAT'S THIS? A GUEST OF CIEL'S, ARE YOU?
ZUI (CLOSE)
CIEL'S NO LONGER HERE. HE'S GONE BACK TO HIS PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.
BUT NOT TO WORRY!
SU-HEW!
I, PRINCE SOMA, THE VICEROY WHO OVERSEES THIS TOWN HOUSE, SHALL DELIVER YOU TO CIEL IN THE FINEST CARRIAGE AVAILABLE!!
SAY HELLO TO CIEL FOR ME NOW!!
SOUVENIRS


GASA (RUSTLE)
GARA (RATTLE)
DO COME AND PLAY WITH US AGAIIIN!!
GOOD BYEEE!!

— SAYS KEATS
LET'S BIDE OUR TIME SOMEWHERE UNTIL NIGHT FALLS

THERE MAY BE A PARTY OR SOMETHING THIS EVENING.
THIS IS MOST CONVENIENT.
— SAYS KEATS.

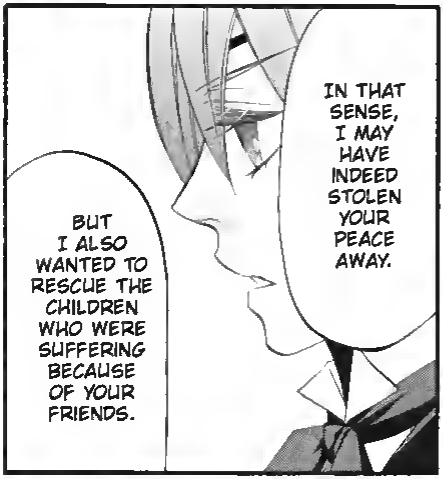


NUKU NUKU
NUKU CHWANO
IT'S SO WARM HERE. IT'S LIKE PARADISE, DON'TCHA THINK?
MOGU
MOGU CHUNCHO
—SAYS WILDE.
.....
AHEM!
UHH... SO?
YOU'RE SAYING THEY VANISHED BECAUSE OF US?
HIGO (PSST)
WHY IS BLAZES SENDS AN ASSASSIN TO SOMEONE AS A GUEST!?
HIGO
ALL THE SAME, THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO RECTIFY THAT NOW.
THOSE FOOLS ...!

I KNEW SOMEHOW THAT JOKER AND THE OTHERS WERE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME.
...BUT!
SHU CORTO
THE MINUTE YOU TWO JOINED OUR TROUPE, THEY ALL STARTED ACTING STRANGE!!
—SAYS WORDSWORTH.
YES!
...EVEN THOUGH I LOOKED LIKE THIS.
SNAKEMA
THEY CALLED ME THEIR COMRADE AND THEIR FRIEND...
THEY SAID WE WERE FAMILY.

YOU STOLE THEM FROM ME!!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT!!
—SAYS WILDE
YOUR CIRCUS TROUPE WAS KIDNAPPING CHILDREN ONE AFTER ANOTHER FROM EACH STOP ON ITS TOUR.
WE JOINED UP WITH YOU TO SEIZE ANY EVIDENCE OF THOSE CRIMES.

JOKER AND THE OTHERS WERE KIDNAPPERS ...!?
L-LIES! YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME WITH YOUR NONSENSE!!
—SAYS OSCAR.


IN THAT SENSE, I MAY HAVE INDEED STOLEN YOUR PEACE AWAY.
BUT I ALSO WANTED TO RESCUE THE CHILDREN WHO WERE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF YOUR FRIENDS.

NONSENSE? PERHAPS.
BEFORE I COULD GATHER THE NECESSARY PROOF, MY IDENTITY WAS DISCOVERED...
...AND THEY DISAPPEARED.

NATURALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO RESCUE YOU AS WELL.
EH...?
SU (REACH)
SHURU (SHWP)
...!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!!?
—SAYS WILDE.
YOUNG MASTER!
SNAKE.
KO (CLICK)

COME TO MY MANOR.

WHA—!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
—SAYS KEATS.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID I WOULD LIKE TO RESCUE YOU.

...DON'T YOU THINK THAT STAYING HERE WOULD BE THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO SEEING THEM AGAIN?
EVEN NOW, WE'RE STILL ON THE HUNT FOR JOKER AND COMPANY.
OF COURSE, I ASK FOR THE SAKE OF SOLVING THE CASE, BUT...
PIKU (TWITCH)

HAVING LIVED WITH THEM IN THE CIRCUS, I KNOW THEY'RE NOT EVIL.

THEY WERE NICE TO EVERYONE THEY MET AND CHEERFUL TO BOOT.

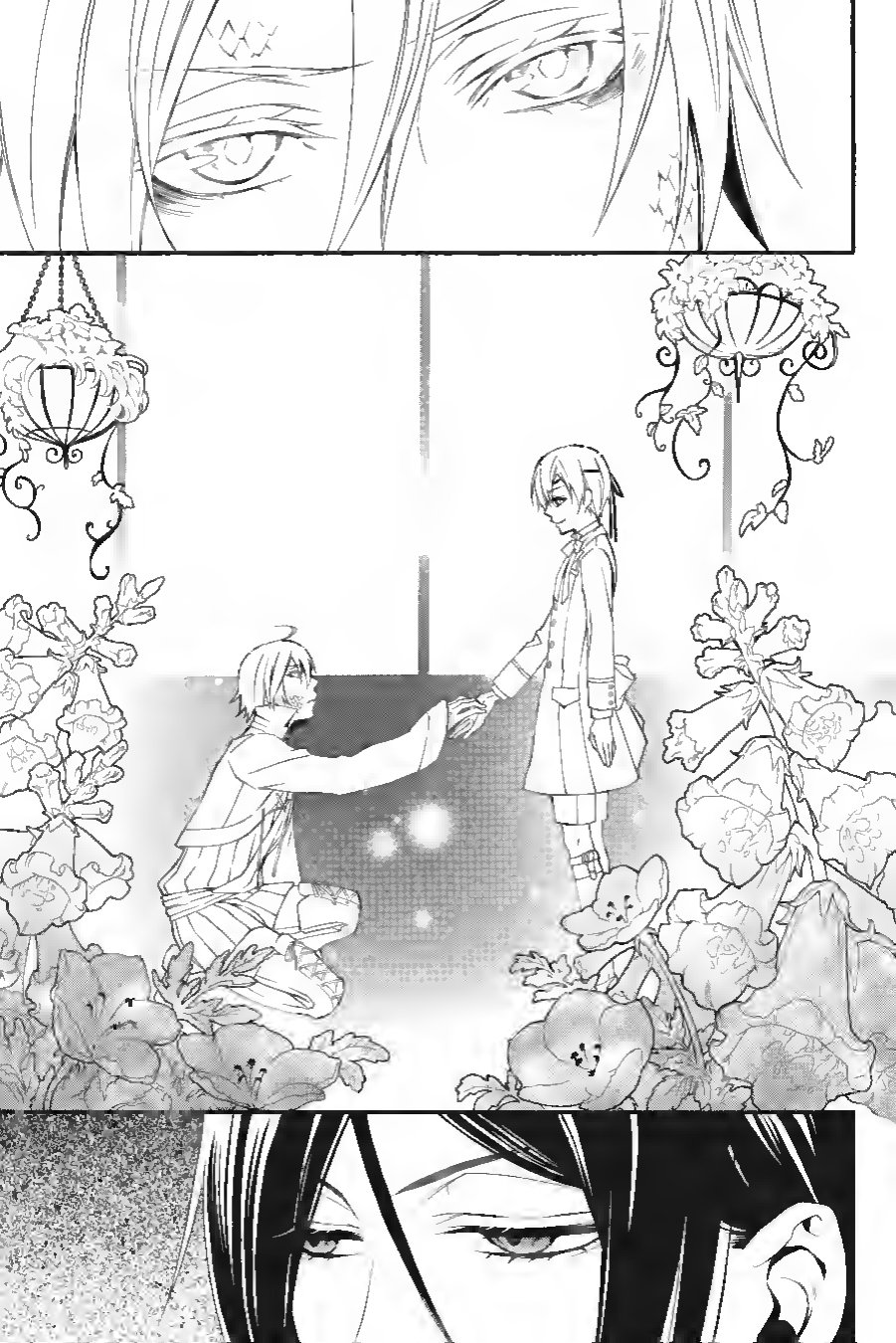
THAT'S WHY I WANT THEM TO ATONE FOR THEIR SINS...

...AND OBTAIN TRUE HAPPINESS.

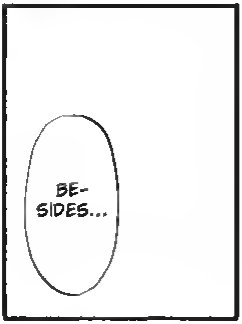
ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING YOU.

IN-CLUDING ME...

.....



I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD INSTALL HIM IN THE MANOR.


BE-SIDES...

HIS ABILITY TO MANIPULATE SNAKES SEEMS LIKE IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY AS WELL.
IT'S BETTER THAN SETTING HIM FREE AND HAVING HIM MAKE ATTEMPT AFTER ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE.

-3
YOU EVEN TOLD SUCH LIES...

...I'VE BEEN WANTING A PET.

IF I CONTINUE THE "LIE," IT WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME THE "TRUTH."
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF YOU SWALLOWING IT ALL UP IN THE END.
.....YES, QUITE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO THE OTHER SER-VANTS?
HMM...
GARAAAN (CLANG)
GARAAAN

GARAAAN (CLAAANG)
ガラーン
GARAAAN
ガラーン…

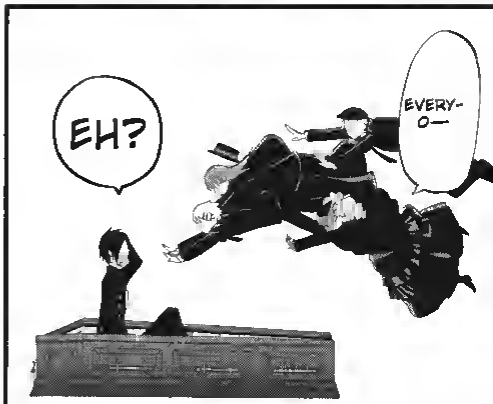
.....
Sebastian Michaelis
HERE LIES BUTLER
SEBASTIAN MICHAELIS
SEBASTIAN IS SUCH A LIAR!
HE VOWED HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE. HOW COULD HE DO THIS ...!?
.....
GABA CHUGO
CIEL!!
WAH!?

NYAHN!
SOB
HIC!
GYU (HUG)
HIC!
HIC!
DON'T CRY, CIEL!! 'COS WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, OKAY!?
FOREVER AND EVER!
COME, LET'S RETURN TO THE HOUSE.
BOTH HE AND I ARE TRULY FORTUNATE TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR US SO MUCH.
CHIRIRIRIN (TINKLE)

CHIRRRRRRN
To the Memory of
Sebastian Michaelis
Died March 15th
May ye be in heaven an hour
before the devil knows you're dead.
CHIRRRRRRN
!?
THE BELL ON THE HEADSTONE IS RINGING ...?
THAT BELL RINGING, WHY...
...IT MEANS HE'S STILL ALIVE!
BUT THERE'S NOT EVEN A BREEZE ...
HEE! HEE...!
OH, DEAR, OH, DEAR. IS THIS REALLY ANY TIME TO BE COOLING YOUR HEELS?
!!?
DIG IT UP!!

GOOD-NESS.
I FINALLY MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THAT.

!?
GA (WHAM)
WAI...
DO (THUD)
!!


EH?
EVERY-O—

WAAAAAHN!
YOU GOOSE, I THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D LOST ANOTHER COMRADE AGAIN...
BISDER ZEBAZ-JAN, I AM ZO GLAAAD DO ZEE YOU!
I! IIII!
EVERYONE, PLEASE CALM YOUR-SELVES...
UWAAAAAAHN!

O GODS!! I THANK YOU!
UWAAAHN!
YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT IT!
SHIRE CCALHO
GLAD WE WENT WITH THE SAFETY COFFIN!
HA
THIS IS A MIRACLE!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN IT RING THOUGH!
WAAAAHI

ALTHOUGH THEIR BEING SO E. SILY FOOLED GIVES ME PAUSE.
I AM DRENCHED IN TEARS AND NASAL SECRETIONS...
UGH. HURRY UP AND WIPE THAT OFF.
WHAT A RELIEF TO HAVE FOOLED THEM WITH THAT LEVEL OF SHOCK TACTIC.

—WHEW.
COME BY AGAIN TO HAVE A LIE-DETECTOR YOU HEEEAR?
HEE! HEE!

SEBAS-TIAN.
PARDON ME.

THIS IS THE PROOF THAT YOU ARE THE BUTLER TO THE EARL OF PHANTOM-HIVE.
AND RIGHT NOW, IT BELONGS ON YOUR CHEST ALONE.

I RETURN THIS TO YOU.

AND SO, SEBASTIAN.
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, YOU ARE MY BUTLER ONCE MORE.
THE BUTLER OF THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY IS NOT PERMITTED TO PASS AWAY BEFORE HIS MASTER DOES. REMEMBER THAT!
HOH! HOH! HOH...!
YES, MY LORD—
I SHALL DEVOTE MYSELF WHOLLY TO SERVING YOU...
...UNTIL THE DAY WHEN LIES BECOME TRUTH COMES TO PASS—

?
DID I SAY SOME-THING?
OH YES. LADY ELIZA-BETH.
EXCUSE ME FOR MY IMPERTINENCE, BUT PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CORRECT YOU ON ONE SMALL MATTER—
I...
...NEVER TELL LIES.

Black Butler

Chapter 51
At night : The Butler, Setting Sail

DO
(STAMP)
VR
GARA
(RATTLE)
GARA
GARA
GARA

I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO KNOCKING THAT LITTLE BRAT DOWN A PEG.
FU (FLICK)

UGH. IT REALLY RILES ME UP!
DOSA (THUD)

THAT IS NOT FOR MERE BUTLERS LIKE US TO KNOW.

BUT I SUUURE DO WONDER WHAT HER MAJESTY'S THINKING!
DOSA
WHO CAN SAY?

IT IS ALL BECAUSE YOU ACTED WITHOUT THOUGHT FOR THE CONSE-QUENCES.
ENOUGH OF YOUR LECTURES, PHIPPS.

ALL IS AS HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN WISHES IT TO BE—
THERE WILL BE A NEW SERVANT JOINING US AT THE MANOR.
THAT WILL BE ALL BY WAY OF INSTRUC-TIONS FOR TODAY, BUT...
...I HAVE ONE FINAL ANNOUNCE-MENT.

GACHA (CLICK)
COME IN.
EH!?
ZORO
GYAAAH!
YIIIKES, SNAAA-AAKES!
ZORO
WAH!!
ZORO
ZORO (SLITHER)
!!?
HE?
THEY WILL NOT BITE UNTIL HE COMMANDS THEM TO DO SO.
DO PIPE DOWN.

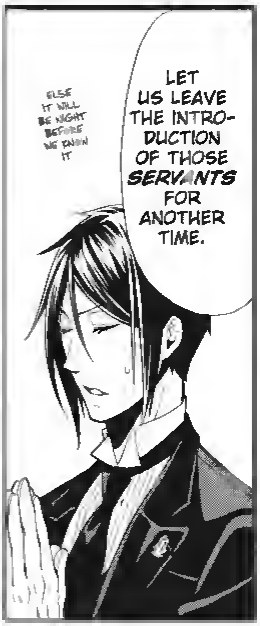
EEEEEK!!
TSUKA (STRIDE) TSUKA
WE'S FRIENDLY
AH WAH WAH...
.....
MOJI (MEEK)
BASH! (WHAP)
NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, YOU MUST FOLLOW OUR BELOW-STAIRS RULES!
STAND UP STRAIGHT NOW! INTRODUCE YOURSELF IN A LOUD AND CLEAR VOICE!
W-WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORK-ING WITH YOU.
I-I'M SNAKE.
—SAYS OSCAR.

GYAAAH!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
AND WORDSWORTH IS OVER THERE.
...AND THE ONE NEXT TO YOU IS BRONTE.
THAT'S EMILY...

UHM...
YOU'RE... MISTER OSCAR?
NO!
THIS IS SNAKE, AND I'M OSCAR!
SA (SLITHER)
KA (HISS)
SA
—SAYS OSCAR.
?

AND THE ONE BY—
ALL RIGHT, THAT WILL DO.
PAN (CLAP)
PAN

SOOO NERVOUS!
IN ANY CASE, HE IS THE PHANTOMHIVE FOOTMAN AS OF TODAY.
DO TRY TO WORK TOGETHER, YOU LOT.


LET US LEAVE THE INTRODUCTION OF THOSE SERVANTS FOR ANOTHER TIME.
ELSE IT WILL BE NIGHT BEFORE WE FINISH IT

HEYYY, SEBASTIAN. MY MAN.
GUTSU (SIMMER)
GUTSU
SFX: MUKI (PEEL) MUKI
GOT A KNACK FOR THAT, Y'DO!
NOOOH!
HISO (PSST)
HISO
Takin' on a guy like that... a fella not one of us knows a thing about... y'sure you know what yer doin'!?
REGARDLESS OF WHO OR WHAT HE MAY BE, IF THE YOUNG MASTER HAS DECIDED TO HIRE HIM, WE MUST SIMPLY OBEY.
BESIDES ...
BUTON (CHOP?)
WHO YOU ARE MATTERS TO ME NOT ONE WHIT.
SU (SNF)
HOWEVER, IF YOU BARE YOUR FANGS AT MY MASTER, THEN I SHALL—
...COULD THE SAME NOT BE SAID OF YOU THREE AS WELL?
URK!

I DO HOPE HE IS QUICK TO LEARN.
I BELIEVE IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO TRAIN HIM.
WELL? HOW IS HE DOING?
WELL, YOU DO EXCEL AT MAKING SOMEONE QUICK TO LEARN, DON'T YOU?
YES.
...IS HOW I SHOULD LIKE TO REPLY, BUT...
...MY TEACHING ABILITIES ARE NOTHING MUCH OF WHICH TO SPEAK IF YOUR DANCING SKILLS ARE ANY-THING TO GO BY.
BASA (FWAP)

IS SOME-THING WRONG?
JIII (STARE)
.....

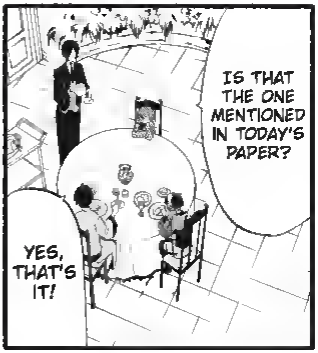
BATA (CRASH)
BATA
NO, NOT AT ALL.
WAIT!
NO!!
YOU CAN'T JUST DANGE IN...YOU CAN!?

Get over!?
Karnstein hospital
Makes miracles h
THE DEAD RETURN TO LIFE !?
THE KARNSTEIN HOSPITAL MAKES MIRACLES HAPPEN!

I TRUST YOU'VE BEEN WELL?
HIIIIIII THERE, LORD EARL!
BAAAN (BAM)

LAU!?
I WAS HOPING TO HELP MYSELF TO BREAKFAST, BUT YOU'VE ALREADY EATEN?
OH?
WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING HERE—
DIDN'T YOU DIE THE OTHER DAY?
LISTEN WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!!
WHAT BUSINESS COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE WITH ME AT THIS HOUR?
SURELY YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST FOR A HANDOUT OF BREAKFAST?
A HOSPITAL THAT RAISES THE DEAD?

SORRY, BUT I HAVEN'T THE LEAST INTEREST IN THE OCCULT—
BUT OCCULT IT MAY NOT BE!


IS THAT THE ONE MENTIONED IN TODAY'S PAPER?
YES, THAT'S IT!

COME AGAIN?
PIKU (GOLT)

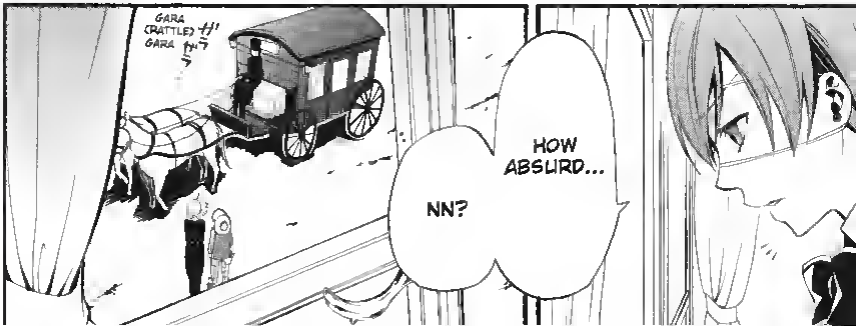
FOR DRUGS?
NO.
PEOPLE.

KARNSTEIN HOSPITAL.
THEY SEEM TO BE DOING QUITE A BIT OF SHOPPING AT THE BLACK MARKET DOCKS LORD EARL HAS LEFT IN MY CARE.

KACHA CLINK
MIGHT THEY NOT BE DISPOSING OF THEM ONCE THEY'VE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE?
WELL, TO BE FRANK, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THOSE DETAILS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BUT...
I WOULDN'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT THEY COULD FIT ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE INTO THE HOSPITAL.
THEY'RE ILLEGALLY PURCHASING SLAVES FROM OVERSEAS, BUT THE NUMBERS ARE QUITE EXTRAORDINARY.
SO IN OTHER WORDS...YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THEY ARE RESURRECTING THE DEAD VIA ILLEGAL HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION?
EXACTLY!
...A HOSPITAL LIKE THAT REALLY SHOULDN'T BE MAKING SUCH HEADLINES IN THE AVERAGE CITIZEN'S NEWSPAPER, DON'T YOU AGREE?

IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, IT'S A CASE OF UNDERWORLD FORCES MEDDLING WITH SOCIETY AT LARGE.
IT'S BEST TO STRIP ROSES OF THEIR THORNS BEFORE THEY CUT ONE'S HANDS.
SEBASTIAN, LOOK INTO IT AT ONCE.
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME, SIR.

BRINGING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE... HM?

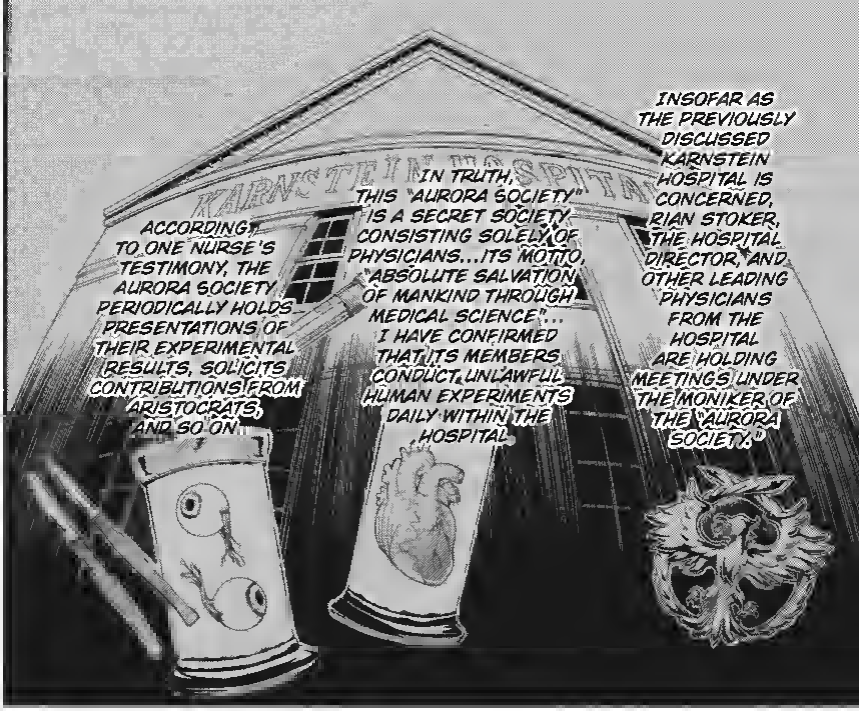

GARA (RATTLE) GARA
HOW ABSURD...
NN?

CIIIEL!
LISTEN TO THIS! LISTEN TO THIS!!
IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT WE'RE GOING ON A FAMILY TRIP IN APRIL!
A THREE-WEEK EXCURSION TO NEW YORK ON A LUXURY PASSENGER LINER, STARTING ON THE SEVENTEENTH!!
BAAAN (WHAM)
SUPA (BLUNT)
AND! AND! FATHER WAS WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT LIKE TO JOIN US!
I THINK NOT.

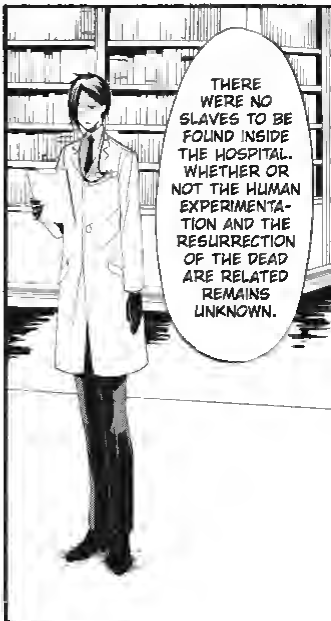
EEEEH!?
BUT IT'S A TICKET FOR THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE *CAMPANIA*, SAID TO BE THE MOST OPULENT PASSENGER LINER IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW!
WHY, EVEN MOTHER SAID CIEL SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF ONCE IN A WHILE...

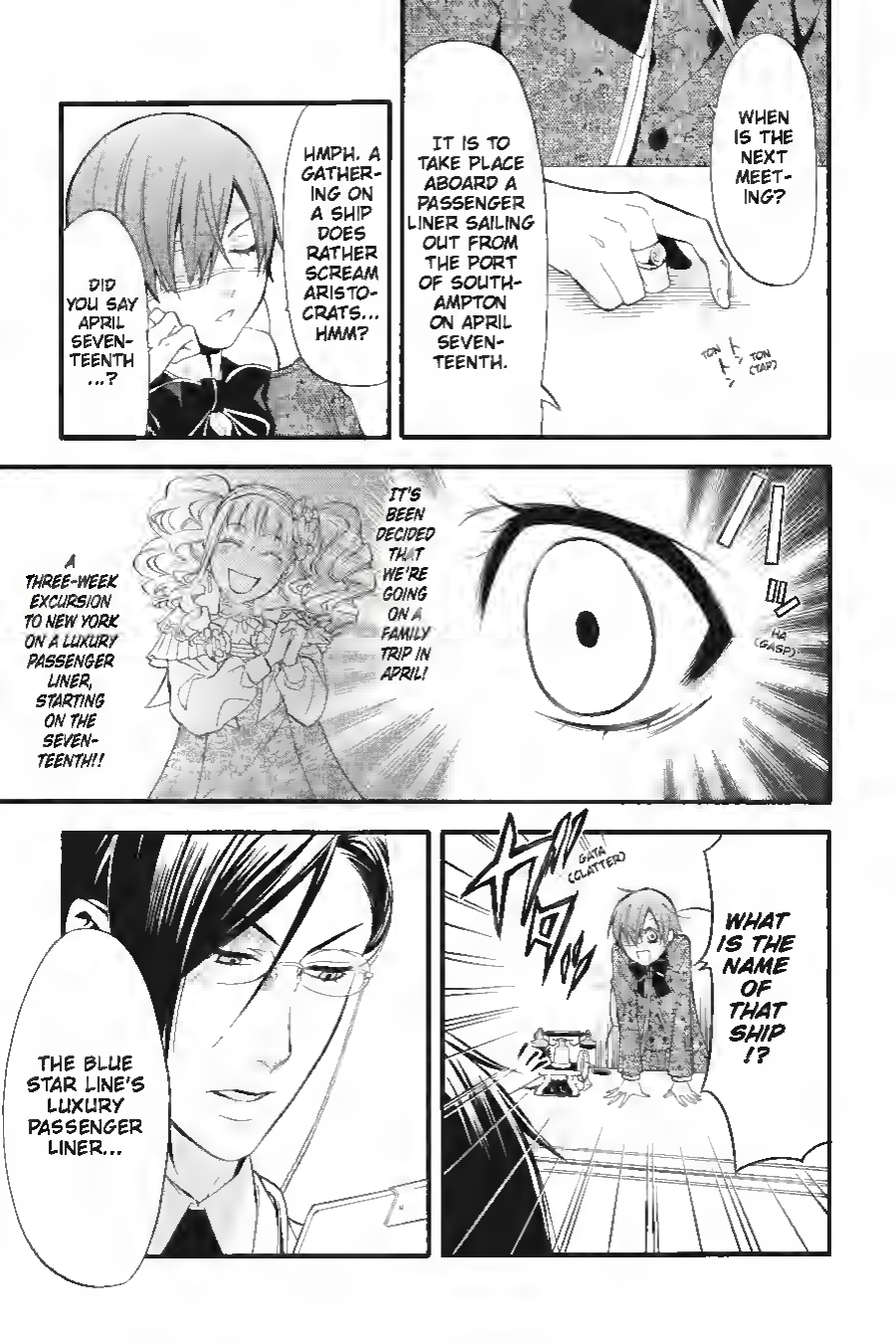
I TRULY APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ABSENT MYSELF FOR SUCH A LENGTH OF TIME.
SHUUUN (DROOP)
OHHH...
A PLACE NEARBY WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, I SUPPOSE.
EH!?
I CAN MAKE THE TIME TO TAKE A FEW DAYS' LEAVE...
...AND ACCOMPANY YOU WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO.
AS LONG AS IT'S CLOSE BY?!
HAAH...
GUSUN (SNIFF)
GYUUUU
ANYWHERE IS FINE IF WE'RE TOGETHER!
I'M SO HAPPY!
...THAT "ANY-WHERE" CAUSES ME THE MOST CONCERN ...
SO...
GYU (HUG)
WAH!

UWAAH!
WHAT IS MAKING YOU GRIN SO?
I'LL BUY YOU LOTS OF SOUVENIRS OKAAAY!?
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
MOREOVER, WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE WEARING!?
AS THEY SAY... WHEN IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS DO.
I WASN'T GRINNING IN THE LEAST!!
BUT TO GET TO THE MATTER AT HAND, I HAVE DISCOVERED SOME RATHER INTRIGUING TIDBITS OF INFORMATION!


ACCORDING TO ONE NURSE'S TESTIMONY, THE AURORA SOCIETY PERIODICALLY HOLDS PRESENTATIONS OF THEIR EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS, SOLICITS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ARISTOCRATS, AND SO ON.
IN TRUTH, THIS "AURORA SOCIETY" IS A SECRET SOCIETY CONSISTING SOLELY OF PHYSICIANS... ITS MOTTO, "ABSOLUTE SALVATION OF MANKIND THROUGH MEDICAL SCIENCE"... I HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ITS MEMBERS CONDUCT UNLAWFUL HUMAN EXPERIMENTS DAILY WITHIN THE HOSPITAL.
INSOFAR AS THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED KARNSTEIN HOSPITAL IS CONCERNED, RIAN STOKER, THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, AND OTHER LEADING PHYSICIANS FROM THE HOSPITAL ARE HOLDING MEETINGS UNDER THE MONIKER OF THE "AURORA SOCIETY."

IT DOESN'T GET ANY MORE SUSPECT THAN THAT.
INDEED.
WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME THAT THE "AURORA SOCIETY" HOLDS DEFINITIVE CLUES REGARDING THIS MATTER.

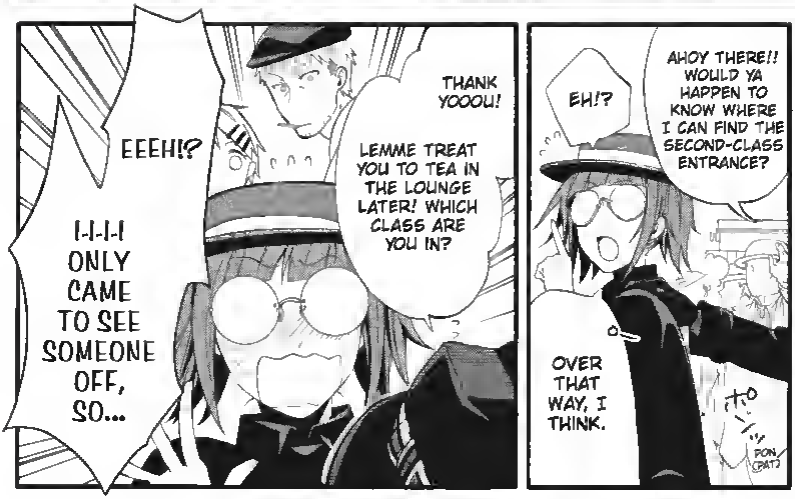

THERE WERE NO SLAVES TO BE FOUND INSIDE THE HOSPITAL. WHETHER OR NOT THE HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD ARE RELATED REMAINS UNKNOWN.

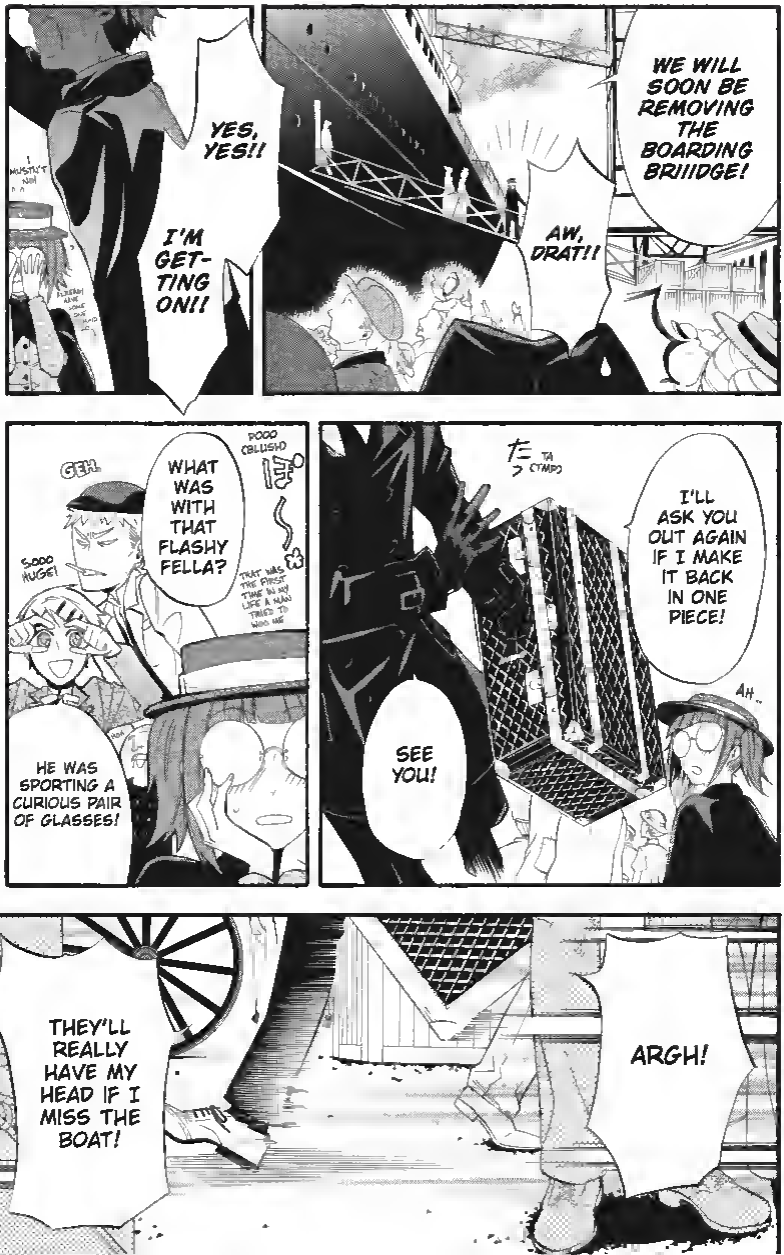

WHEN IS THE NEXT MEETING?
IT IS TO TAKE PLACE ABOARD A PASSENGER LINER SAILING OUT FROM THE PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON ON APRIL SEVENTEENTH.
TON (TAP)
HMPH. A GATHERING ON A SHIP DOES RATHER SCREAM ARISTOCRATS... HMM?
DID YOU SAY APRIL SEVENTEENTH...?
HA (GASP)
IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT WE'RE GOING ON A FAMILY TRIP IN APRIL!
A THREE-WEEK EXCURSION TO NEW YORK ON A LUXURY PASSENGER LINER, STARTING ON THE SEVENTEENTH!!
GATA (CLATTER)
WHAT IS THE NAME OF THAT SHIP!?
THE BLUE STAR LINE'S LUXURY PASSENGER LINER...

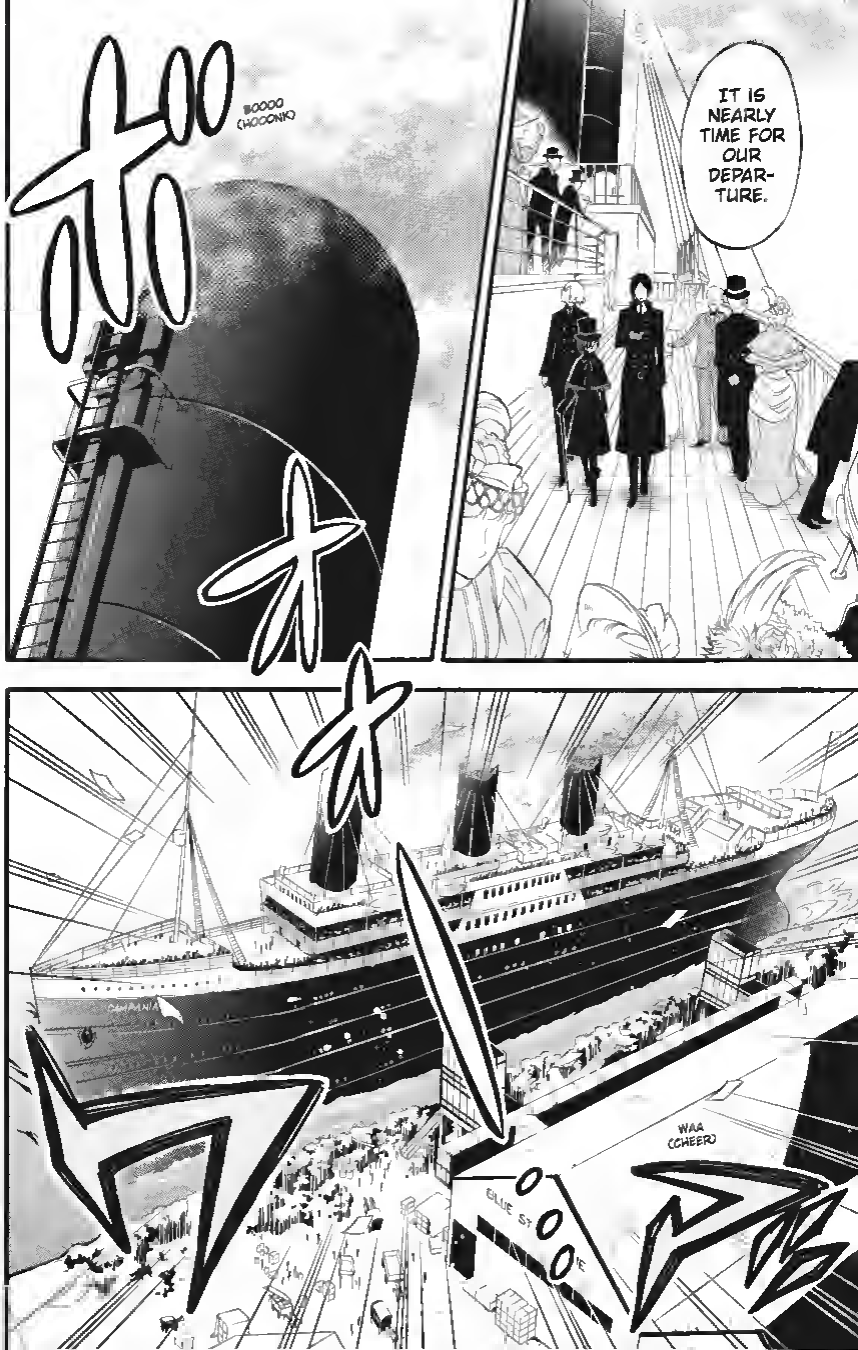
SO THIIIIS IS THE CAMPANIA, HUH!!?
ZAWA (BUZZ)
SECOND-CLASS PASSENGERS OVER THIS WAY!
TO FIRST-CLASS SUITE A-66.
YES SIR
WHOA, IT'S HUUUGE!
PLEASE DEPOSIT YOUR BAGGAGE WITH THE CLERKS IN CHAAARGE!
ZAWA
ZAWA

CAMPANIA
YESSIR!!
ZAWA
A FOOTMAN'S DUTIES INCLUDE ACCOMPANYING HIS MASTER ON HIS TRAVELS.
I AM COUNTING ON EACH OF YOU TO CAREFULLY SEE TO YOUR DUTIES WHILE WE ARE AWAY.
ZAWA
AWWW, I'M JEALOUS THAT MISTER SNAKE GETS TO GO WITH THE YOUNG MASTER!
FULL OF SNAKES

ZAWA
ZAWA
TICKET-HOLDING PASSENGERS, PLEASE EMBARK AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.
WE WILL BE SETTING SAIL IN A MOMENT.
...WE'LL BE OFF, THEN.
WELL...

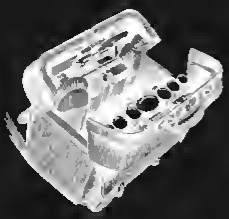

EEEH!?
I-I-I-I ONLY CAME TO SEE SOMEONE OFF, SO...
THANK YOOOU!
LEMME TREAT YOU TO TEA IN THE LOUNGE LATER! WHICH CLASS ARE YOU IN?
EH!?
AHOY THERE!! WOULD YA HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE SECOND-CLASS ENTRANCE?
OVER THAT WAY, I THINK.
PON (PAT)

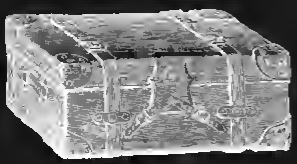

I MUSTN'T NAP!
YES, YES!!
I'M GET-TING ON!!
WE WILL SOON BE REMOVING THE BOARDING BRIIIDGE!
AW, DRAT!!
GEH.
WHAT WAS WITH THAT FLASHY FELLA?
POOO CBLUSHO
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE A MAN TRIED TO WOO ME
S-SOOO HUGE!
HE WAS SPORTING A CURIOUS PAIR OF GLASSES!
TA (TYMP)
I'LL ASK YOU OUT AGAIN IF I MAKE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE!
AH..
SEE YOU!
THEY'LL REALLY HAVE MY HEAD IF I MISS THE BOAT!
ARGH!


BOOOO (HOOONK)
IT IS NEARLY TIME FOR OUR DEPAR-TURE.
WAA (CHEER)

YOUNG MASTER-RRRR!!
TAAAKE CAAARE!!
CAMPANIA
HAVING LEFT PORT SAFE AND SOUND JUST AS PLANNED...
PHEEEW! MADE IT IN THE NICK OF TIME!

...THERE'S SMOOTH SAILING AHEAD! A BRIGHT FUTURE!
FOR US, THAT IS!





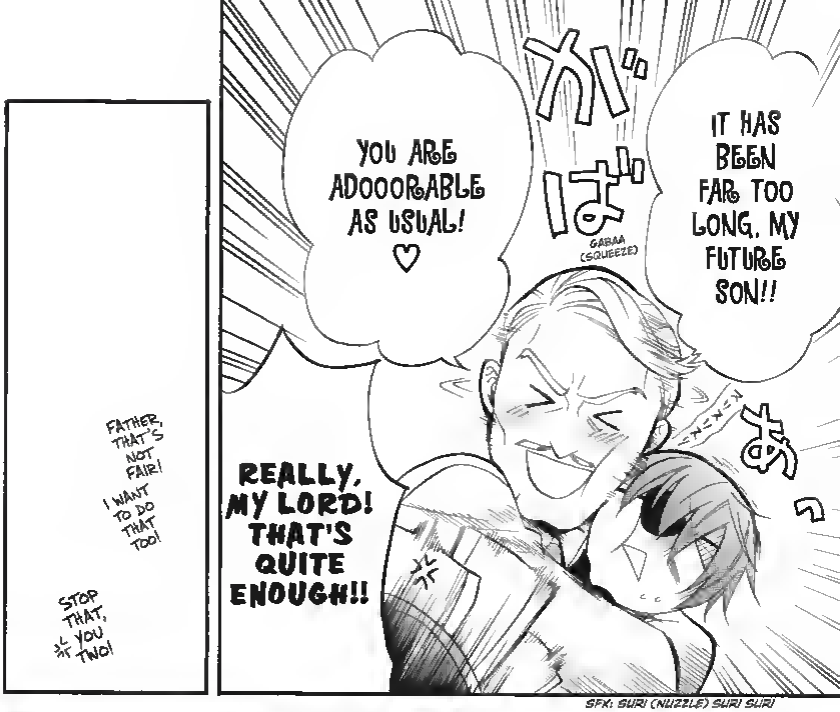
Black Butler

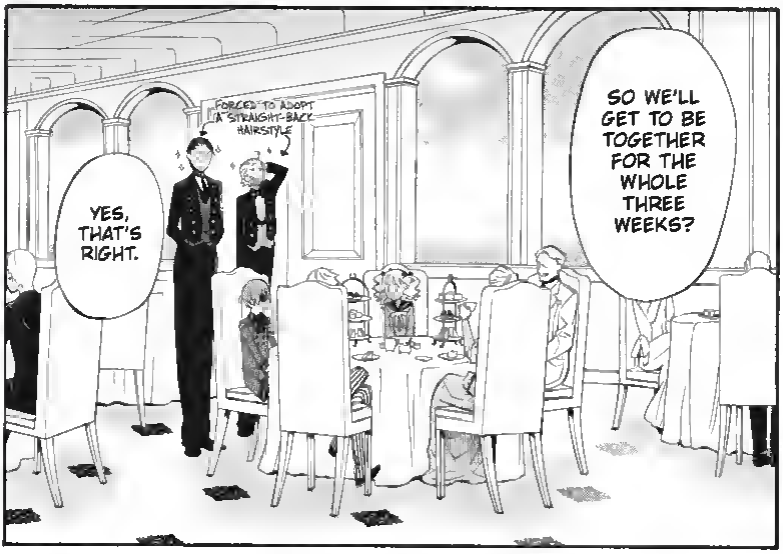
CHAPTER 52

At midnight : The Butler, At the Helm

I HAD HOPED TO SURPRISE YOU.
HA HA HA!
I—
GYUUUU (SQUEEZE)
I'M SO VERY HAPPY!!
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T COME WITH US!
BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
BURU
GIKU! (JUMP)
ELIZA-BETH!
STOP BEHAVING SO INDECENTLY IN PUBLIC AT ONCE!!
THE CAMPANIA
First-Class Deck

QUITE RIGHT, LIZZIE.
BE-SIDES ...
Eldest son of the Midford family
Edward
.....
Marquess of Midford
Alexis Leon Midford
SO HURRY UP AND MOVE AWAY FROM HER!!
HAAH...
KUWA (ROAR)
...I HAVE YET TO ACKNOWL-EDGE YOU AS MY FUTURE BROTHER-IN-LAW!!
KUW! (GLARE)
L-LORD MIDFORD. IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE WE LAST MET.
ERM...
JIII (STAAARE)
REALLY! THERE YOU GO SAYING THOSE THINGS AGAIN, EDWARD!


IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG, MY FUTURE SON!!
GABAA (SQUEEZE)
YOU ARE ADOOORABLE AS USUAL! ♡
REALLY, MY LORD! THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH!!
FATHER, THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WANT TO DO THAT TOO!
STOP THAT, YOU TWO!
SFX: SURI (NUZZLE) SURI SURI

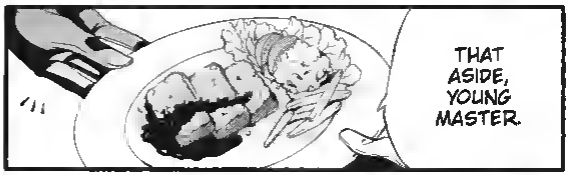

SO WE'LL GET TO BE TOGETHER FOR THE WHOLE THREE WEEKS?
FORCED TO ADOPT A STRAIGHT-BACK HAIRSTYLE
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

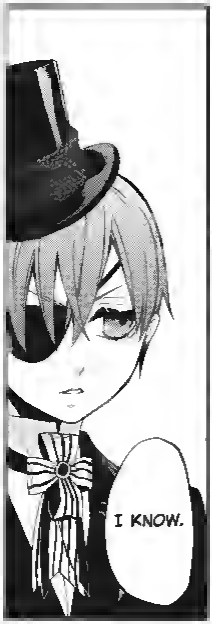
GRD. GUARD
I WAS GOING TO BE THE ONE ESCORTING HER...
BIKU (JUMP)
YOU MUST ESCORT ME TO THE DINNER PARTIES, CIEL!
THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST TIME BEING TOGETHER FOR SO LONG!
I WILL, I WILL.
THE MEETING OF WHICH WE SPOKE EARLIER WILL BE HELD ON THE EVE OF THE NINE-TEENTH.
WHY NOT LEISURELY ENJOY A RARE HOLIDAY?
WHAT EXACTLY HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO...?
HEH!
IS IT NOT JUST AS WELL?
...I GUESS A BREAK IS CALLED FOR EVERY SO OFTEN...
... WELL ...
I MUST DRESS UP!!

TWO DAYS HENCE—
CIEL, LOOK! LOOK!
THE CAMPANIA
First-Class Lounge
THOSE CAKES ARE SOOO CUTE!
I'LL GO GET SOME FOR US, CIEL!
SO WHAT FOR ME, OKAY?
AH...

THEN HOW ABOUT YOU ACCEPT THE MARCHIONESS'S INVITATION FOR A FENCING LESSON TOMORROW?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KEEP ME FROM GREETING THE GODDESS OF FREEDOM THAT BADLY?
I FEEL LIKE A FOOL FOR HAVING TRADED IN MY WORK FOR THIS...
AND THEY DO IT WITH EXACTLY THE SAME CONVERSATION PARTNERS EVERY SINGLE DAY!!
ARISTOCRATS REALLY DO DO NOTHING BUT GET TOGETHER DAILY TO TALK NONSENSE ABOUT THIS FAMILY AND THAT...
HAAA (SIGH)
はぁ～っ

SFX: GESSORI (TIRED)





IT SEEMS THE CONVENING OF THE "AURORA SOCIETY" WILL BE SIGNALLED BY A WAITER CARRYING EMPTY GLASSES AND WALKING THE HALL.
PARTICIPANTS ARE TO TAKE A GLASS AND THEN HEAD FOR THE MEETING PLACE.

IT'S LIKE THAT OF A SNAKE.
HISO
MY GOODNESS. I WONDER WHEN THIS PLACE BECAME A VULGAR FREAK SHOW.

DON'T MISS THAT SIGNAL.
HISO (PSST)
See there? Just look at his skin.
AS YOU WISH, SIR.

YOU'RE NOT USED TO CROWDS?
KOTSU (CLICK)

GYU (CLENCH)
NON, NON.
He will hear you, madam.
HEE.
HEE.

EH!?
WHAT OF IT?
—SAYS DONNE.
WE LOOK DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE, SO IF WE'RE TOGETHER, SMILE AND BLACK WILL BECOME LAUGHING-STOCKS AS WELL.
IN ANY CASE, I'M FREE TO CHOOSE MY COMPAN-IONS.
IT'S NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS BUT MINE
WHAT IS THERE TO BE ASHAMED OF?
WE'RE STRANGERS, SO OF COURSE WE'RE DIFFERENT.
YOU ARE NOW THE FOOTMAN TO A DISTINGUISHED ARISTOCRAT.
—SAYS YOUNG MASTER.

MAY I HAVE A GLASS?

CARRY YOURSELF WITH CONFIDENCE AND HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH.

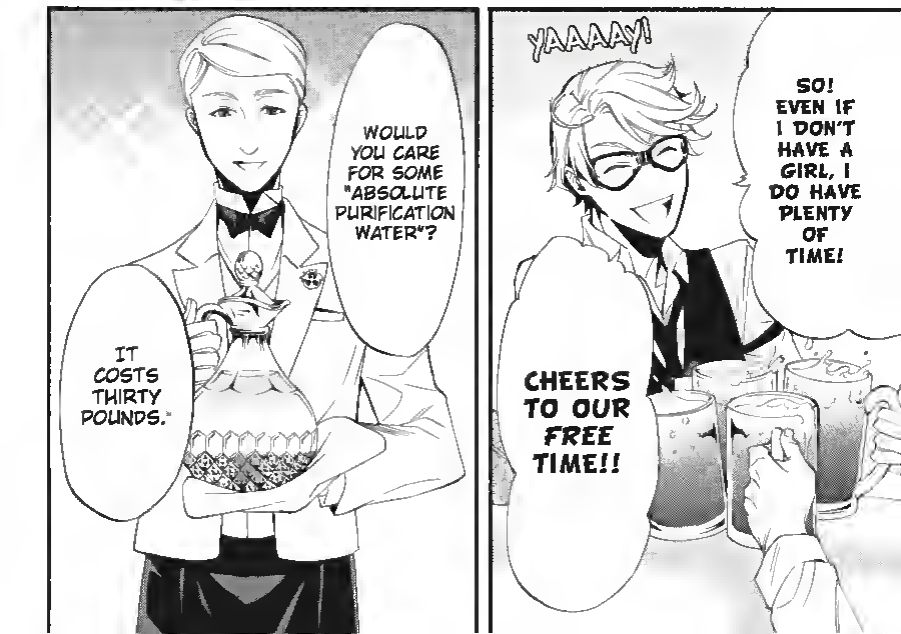
SU (SWF)

HERE, YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT!
WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM!
AH
(CRASH)

.....!
MM, TASTY...
.....
そ——!
GOOD (REACH)
.....
THE CAMPANIA
Third-Class Dining Hall
ガヤ
GAYA
ガヤ...
GAYA
ALE! ALE'S THE WAY TO GO! MUCH BETTER THAN ANY FANCY CHAM-PAGNE!
Y'THINK SO TOO, DON'T YE, LAD?
ガヤ
GAYA
ガヤ
GAYA (CHATTER)
AHHH!
SOOO GOOD!!

ZAWA
ZAWA (PUZZ)
OOOH, 'OW NICE! I ENVY YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!
IF ONLY I HAD ONE!
WOT!? YOU DON'T?
STILL, IF YOU'RE DRINKING WITH YOUR LASS, A REAL FAMOUS BRAND OF CHAMPAGNE'S THE WAY TO GO!
GAYA

※ABOUT ¥800,000 TO ¥1,000,000


WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME "ABSOLUTE PURIFICATION WATER"?
IT COSTS THIRTY POUNDS."
YAAAAY!
SO! EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE A GIRL, I DO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME!
CHEERS TO OUR FREE TIME!!

I SHALL HAVE A GLASS.
THE CAMPANIA
First-Class
Smoking Lounge
THEY'VE DISGUISED THEMSELVES
SO IN OTHER WORDS... THOSE WHO CANNOT PAY DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER.
KO-OPO (GLUG)
HMPH
WHAT AN OUT-RAGEOUS PRICE FOR WATER.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.
GASSH! (GRAB)
A MOMENT, PLEASE.
ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION, THE AURORA SOCIETY HAS A PRESCRIBED FORM OF GREETING, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW IT ARE EXPELLED.
TELL ME ABOUT THESE DETAILS SOONER!!
SO? WHAT SORT OF GREETING IS IT?
YOU SEE...

—WHA ...!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...!
WE REALLY HAVE TO DO THAT ...!?
IF WE CANNOT GREET THEM AS REQUIRED, WE WILL BE REGARDED AS OUTSIDERS AND MADE TO LEAVE ON THE SPOT.
HESITATION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED...
NOW, THEN.
LET US GO.
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
GII (CREAK)

ZAWA
ZAWA
(MUTTERING)
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?
SLI
(SWIPE)
TH—
"THE ETERNAL FLAME IN THIS BREAST...
"...CANNOT BE QUENCHED BY ANYONE.
"WE ARE—

"PHOENIX"!!

WHAT KIND OF A POSE IS THIS!? NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THEM SANE!!
IF WE'VE GOT IT WRONG, ALL WILL BE LOST, SEBAS-TIAN!
KA (SHAKE)

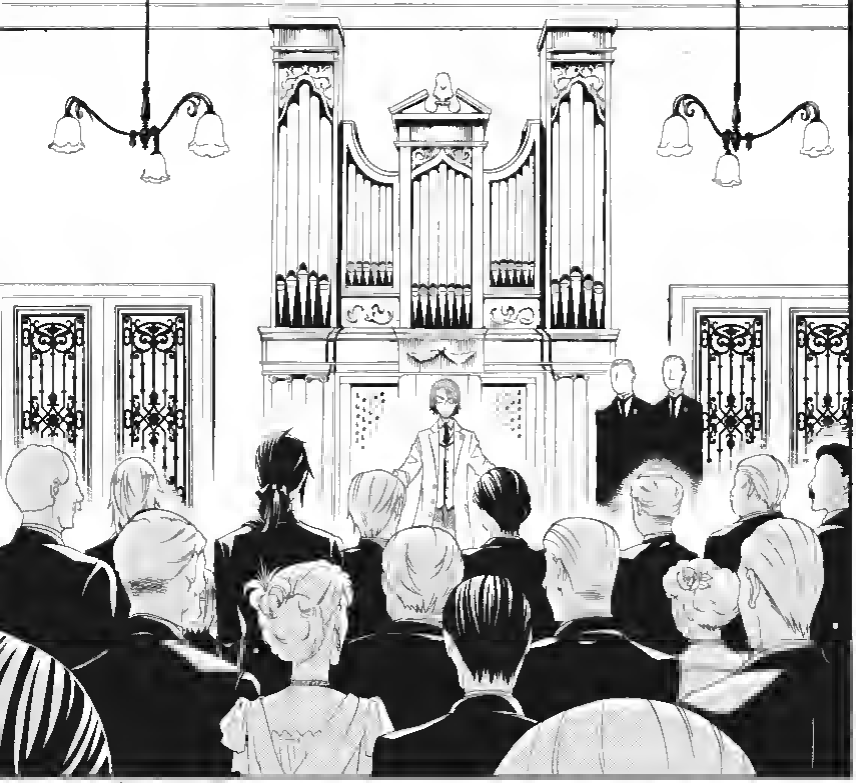
PHOENIX!!
BA (BAM)
WELCOME TO THE AURORA SOCIETY.
I'LL NEVER, EVER DO THAT AGAIN ...!
SHUUU (STEAM)
GUU!
HEE! HEE! HEE ..
KACHA (CLINK)
HERE ARE YOUR MEMBER-SHIP BADGES.
THANK YOU.
GYO (SHOCK)
THAT WAS BRILLIANT!
EEEE! HEE! HEE! HEE!
I NEEEEVER IMAGINED YOU'D DO SUCH A THING!
U-UNDER-TAKER!?

FOR WORK, YOU SEE!
HOSPITALS ARE VALUED CLIENTS OF MINE!
THAT SAID, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOU LOOKED SO VERY EARNEST WHEN YOU SHOUTED, "PHOENIX!!" DAH! HA! HA!
WHY, YOU ...!
NOW, NOW, YOUNG MASTER.
GUH FU FU...
YES, LET ME THIIINK!
DEAR, DEAR! IF IT'S INFORMATION YOU WANT, I MUST HAVE "COMPENSATION" (BY WHICH I MEAN "LAUGHS") FOR IT!
WE'RE INVESTIGATING ILLEGAL HUMAN EXPERIMENTS THAT ARE SAID TO BE CONDUCTED BY THIS HOSPITAL.
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DEAD BEING RESURRECTED?
PHOENIX!!!
HOW 'BOUT YOU DO THAT POSE FOR ME ONE MORE TIME, HMM?
WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FO—

Do excuse me for adapting the pose to suit my style.
ISN'T THAT THE VISCOUNT OF DRUITT!?
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE ...?
IF MEMORY SERVES, HE DID HAVE A PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE.
IT HAD UTTERLY SLIPPED MY MIND.
HE'S COMING THIS WAY!
GEH!
WE CHANCED UPON THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, YOU SEE...
MADAM SAMUEL'S LOOSE LIPS WILL CAUSE US NO END OF GRIEF.
TO THINK SHE WOULD REVEAL OUR SECRETS SO READILY!
HAAH...
OH, I SAY! ARE YOU TWO NEW-COMERS HERE?
INDEED WE ARE.
GA (HIDE)

NO, SIR!!
WE ARE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME, I ASSURE YOU!!
?
HAVE YOU AND I HAD THE PLEASURE OF EACH OTHER'S COMPANY BEFORE?
DOKI (BADUM)
キュン
OHH, AND WHO HAVE WE HERE?
F- FATHER SAID THEY WOULD MAKE ME BETTER IF I CAME HERE.
F- F- F- F- F—
HIS FACE IS FAR TOO CLOSE!!
OOH... BUT WHAT HEART-BREAKING BANDAGES.
QUITE RIGHT. I WOULD NEVER FORGET THE FACE OF A BOY AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU.
GOOSE BUMPS
I SHALL BE EAGERLY AWAITING THE DAY WHEN I AM ABLE TO GAZE INTO BOTH OF YOUR EYES.
WITHOUT A DOUBT! RIAN WILL SURELY CURE YOU!
FATHER..?

HOLD IT, YOU TWO!
THE SHOW'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!
WHERE DID THE UNDER-TAKER GO?
I WONDER WHAT BROUGHT HIM HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
NO, HANS GIL THE WAY HE IS NOW GIVES HIM RATHER A DECADENT AIR, WHICH HAS ITS OWN CHARMS...
NN?
SO THAT'S...
HE IS RIAN STOKER, THE FOUNDER.



PHOENIX!!!
WE ARE —!
BA (BAN)

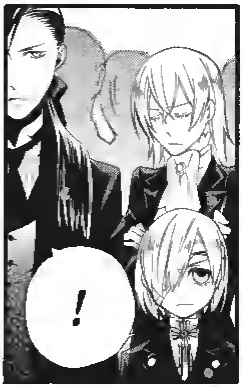
THE ETERNAL FLAME IN THIS BREAST...
...CAN-NOT BE QUENCHED BY ANYONE.

ESTEEMED FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES!
I THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE AURORA SOCIETY'S RESEARCH PRESENTATION, "ABSOLUTE SALVATION OF MANKIND THROUGH MEDICAL SCIENCE," ON THIS FINE DAY.
WHAT IS ABSOLUTE SALVATION, YOU MIGHT ASK? WELL, IT'S...
...PERFECT HEALTH!!
A HEALTHY BODY.
HEALTHY TEETH.
A HEALTHY MIND RESIDING IN A HEALTHY BODY.
AND HEALTHY WEATHER.
GOOD HEALTH IS INDEED A MANY-SPLENDOURED THING!!
Uuu...

IT IS DEATH!

HOWEVER, THERE CONTINUES TO EXIST A STATE OF GREATEST, MOST PROFOUND UNHEALTHINESS THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO CONQUER, TRY AS WE MIGHT.
AND WHAT IS THAT STATE?

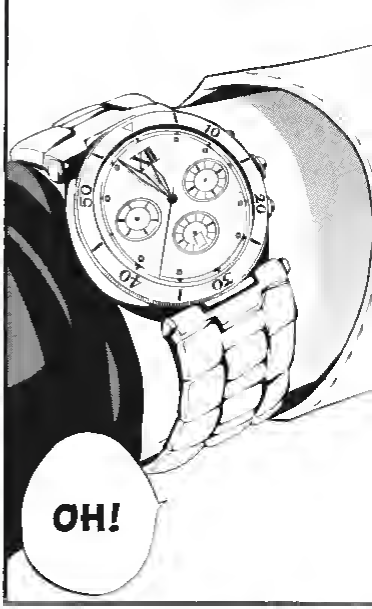
...THE MEDICAL SCIENCE OF THE AURORA SOCIETY!
AND THE WONDERFUL, SINGULAR POWER THAT WILL SAVE US FROM THIS CALAMITY...? THAT IS...


!

THE "ABSOLUTE SALVATION OF MANKIND THROUGH MEDICAL SCIENCE."
GATA (CLACK)
NOW I SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO YOU THE FRUITS OF OUR RESEARCH—
HER DEATH WAS TRULY TRAGIC...
...THE RESULT OF A CATASTROPHE THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED.
HERE LIES MARGARET CONNOR, AGE SEVENTEEN. SHE LOST HER YOUNG LIFE IN AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.
I WISH TO ABSOLUTELY SAVE THIS YOUNG LADY AND HER FAMILY!
HER UNTIMELY END BROUGHT ILL HEALTH NOT ONLY UPON HER OWN HEART...
...BUT ALSO UPON THE HEARTS OF HER LOVED ONES.

There is a lingering scent of death causing my nose to wrinkle.
SUN (SNIFF)
Is the corpse real?
HIGO (PFFST) HIGO ヒソ ヒソ
I believe so.
THE POWER OF MEDICINE!
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU, EVERYONE!
ABSO-LUTE SALVA-TION!!
SBA (ZZZ)

GAYA
GAYA (CLATTER)
GAYA (CLAMOUR)
IT'S NEARLY TIME.
WHAT AN ODDD WATCH!
HM?
WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?


OH!

I'VE GOT A LITTLE WORK TO DO.

AWWW! LEAVIN' SO SOON?
THEN 'OW 'BOUT WE MEET AGAIN 'ERE T'MORROW?

OKAY!
IF WE'RE BOTH ALIVE, THAT IS.
AH-HA-HA! WHAT'RE YOU ON 'BOUT!?

NOW RISE ANEW FROM THE ASHES, MY DEAR!
LIKE A PHOENIX!!
SUU (RAISE)
PLEASE, TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
OUR MEDICAL SCIENCE CAN OVER-COME EVEN DEATH!!
ZAWA (MURMUR)

MAGGIE! OHH, MAGGIE, MY SWEET CHILD!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, DOCTOR!!
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
WA (CHEER)
THIS IS "ABSOLUTE SALVATION" !!
PACHI
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES...
IT'S A MIRACLE!
PACHI
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE !?
DID A CORPSE REALLY JUST COME BACK TO LIFE!?
PACHI

AS LONG AS YOU ARE ALIVE, YOUR MOTHE—
KYAAAAH!?
M-MAGGIE—!? WHAT IS THE— OW—
MERI
MERI (CRACK)
(GORI (CRUNCH)
MERI

GUAAA!!
GOKI (SPLINTER)
GOKI (CRUNCH)
MERI (CRACK)
YA (SCREAM)
SHA (SHWK)
CHAKI (CLINK)
SEBASTIAN!
YES, MY LORD!

DID YOU KILL IT?
STEP BACK, PLEASE.
DO (SHAKO)
AH!
MIKI (CRACKLE)
MIKI
MISHI (CREAK)
PAKI (SNAP)
WHA—!?
WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT THI—
GI (GERO)
MY KNIVES OUGHT TO HAVE PIERCED ITS HEART.

THIS IS A BEING I MYSELF DO NOT QUITE COMPRE-HEND.

Black Butler

黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki

SuKe

7

Saito Torino

*

Takeshi Kuma

*

Yana Toboso

SpecialThanks

Yana' s Mother

Sakuya

for You!

Translation Notes

Inside Front and Back Covers

Sukiyabashi Tanaka
A parody of an actual sushi restaurant in Ginza called Sukiyabashi Jiro, which holds three Michelin stars

Japanese pork dishes
Tonkatsu is pork cutlet that has been breaded and deep-fried. *Shougayaki* is ginger-fried pork. *Tonjiru* is a soup of miso, pork, and vegetables. *Tonshabu* is a kind of hot pot stew with thinly sliced pork among a multitude of other ingredients. *Yakitori* is skewered and grilled pork.

Menu items
Tanmen is ramen with a salty broth topped with stir-fried vegetables and meat. *Chashuu* sauce flavour is that of braised or barbecued pork. *Chuukadon* is a Chinese-style topping of meat and vegetables over rice. *Oyakodon* is another rice bowl dish made with a topping of both chicken and egg. An *oolong hai* is an alcoholic cocktail of shochu with oolong tea. The *hai* is short for "highball."

Page 7

Elevenses
A light midmorning snack similar to afternoon tea but for the time at which it is consumed

Page 9

Fortnum & Mason
A British department store in central London founded in the early eighteenth century. Fortnum's, as it is often called, started out as a grocery and saw rapid growth during the Victorian era. Over the years, it has earned numerous Royal Warrants from the British Crown. An iconic British brand, the store is known for stocking both basic and eclectic, high-quality foodstuffs. It is also home to a renowned tea shop

Page 9

Second Flush
Tea leaves are harvested throughout their growing season, but teas picked in the first and second flushes, or periods of growth, are often the most prized. A first flush tea has a very delicate flavour while the more robust second flush, which is picked about roughly a month after the first, is often more popular because it has the same delicacy of flavour but with more body

Page 36

Hair of the dog
A shortening of "the hair of the dog that bit me," this phrase has been used since the sixteenth century to refer to drinking a small quantity of alcohol to cure a hangover

Page 64

The Butterfly Effect
The butterfly effect is a tenet of chaos theory, the origins of which began in the late nineteenth century. The example of the ripple effect caused by a butterfly's wings is said to have first been used by the science fiction writer Ray Bradbury who wrote about it in his short story "A Sound of Thunder" in 1952, but the term "butterfly effect" was coined in the 1960s by meteorologist Edward Lorenz

Page 67

"There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."
This quote appears in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" featuring his great detective, Sherlock Holmes

Page 87

Queimada Island
This small, uninhabited island lies off the coast of Sao Paolo, Brazil, and is home to one of the most venomous species of snake known to man—the golden lancehead pitviper, whose venom is five times more potent than its closest cousin, which itself is the cause of the most deaths by snakebite in South America. It is said that there are anywhere from one to five golden lanceheads per every square meter on the island, which gives the island its nickname: Snake Island.

Page 122

Karnstein Hospital
The true identity of the titular character of Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's novella *Carmilla* is revealed to be the vampire Countess Karnstein and much of the action of the story takes place in Karnstein as well.

Page 167

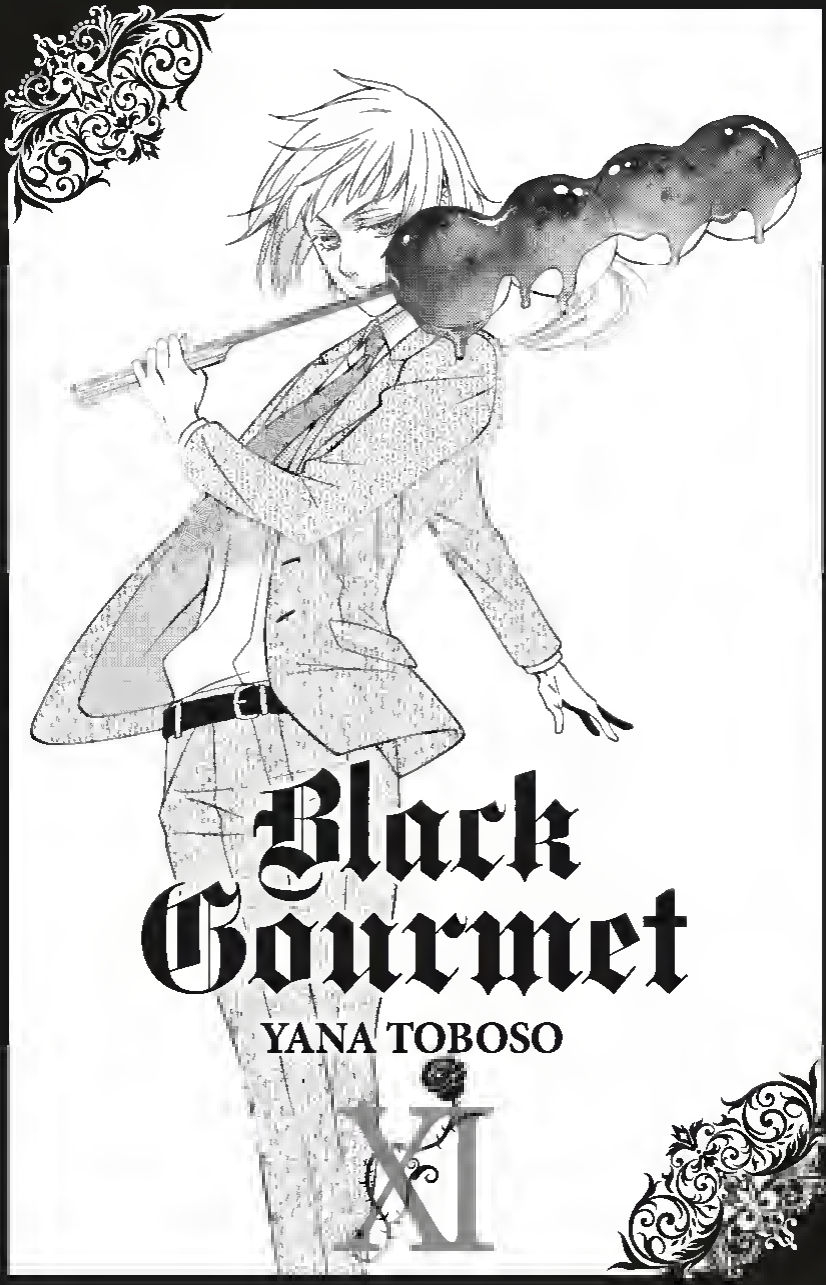
WKTK
An abbreviation of "ワクワクテカテカ" (*waku waku teka teka*), a term to denote anticipation

Yana Toboso

Author's note

"My drawing is nowhere near my ideal devil of a butler. I want to make him a much cooler and nobler, handsome non-human!" ...I've been drawing Sebas by trial and error this whole time, but even after ten volumes, my drawing is far from my ideal, and I can't stop my journey to the ideal Sebas in my head.

I'd like to reach sanctuary already and settle down. But this journey will never end. That's how I feel. And so here's Volume 11, off to a new journey.

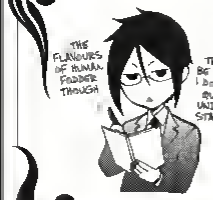


Black Gourmet

YANA TOBOSO

XI

TWO GOURMETS WANDER THE CITY.
THE QUALITY APPEARS TO HAVE DROPPED SINCE THE SUCCESSOR TOOK OVER, HM...?
A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT AND AN INEXPENSIVE EATERY—
DEEELISH~! BUT Y'KNOW, TONKATSU, SHOUGAYAKI, TONJIRU, TONSHABU, AND YAKITON ALL USE PORK.
~NOM~
~NOM~
SUKIYAKI TANAKA



A soothing essay manga tale in which two gourmets at odds—one, an ultra-harsh critic who ranks famous restaurants, and the other, a proudly independent foodie who drops into holes in the wall as the fancy strikes him—encounter each other (or not) at a certain nameless establishment in the old part of town...

...or something.

BLACK BUTLER 11

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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